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VOP REPORTS 12 MARCH OPERATION NORTH OF TEL AVIV

JN131527Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] The military spokesman of the General Command of the Al-'Asifah forces last night stated the following: The Dayr Yasin force is continuing the martyr Kamal 'Udwan operation inside the occupied land as planned. A group of this force this evening, 12 March, clashed with an enemy (?patrol) in Ilyaho Street north of Tel Aviv. The clash was continuing at the time of this statement at 2130, 12 March 1978. Gunfire and explosions are being heard in the area. At the same time forces from the army, civil guards and border guards are being deployed in the area. They are closing the approaches to the scene of the clash.

VOP COMMENTS ON PALESTINIAN OPERATION IN ISRAEL

JN132023Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] When talking about the operation of martyr Kamal 'Udwan, which was carried out efficiently and admirably by the Dayr Yasin fedayeen force, and before deeply evaluating it and revealing its dimensions, our attention is attracted by that unique legendary model personified by the members of this operation in the heart of the base of aggression and usurpation.

The operation of martyr Kamal 'Udwan carried unique heroic images which cannot be described in writing or given proper credit. Likewise, it has added a number of basic substantial facts which were about to be blurred by the clouds of delusion raised in the atmosphere of our region by the enemies, especially at this time, which is witnessing fierce attempts to strike at the Palestinian issue and ignore it in the biggest and widest process of imposing a suspicious and faked peace founded on the basis of aggression and its fait accompli and [words indistinct] with oppression and disregard of the rights of our people, our nation and our just cause.

The first fact: The operation of martyr Kamal 'Udwan has come at a time when the Zionist enemy seemed to be at the peak of his arrogance and vanity. Many people in the world even imagined that the enemy had become the one with the last word in the region and that he could impose capitulation on the Arab nation, subjugate its forces and even consecrate his usurpation of its rights, freedom and future. The enemy thus benefits from the bountiful political and military support he receives from the United States, as well as from the extraordinary conditions resulting from As-Sadat's capitulatory visit and the readiness to make concessions and relinquishment that accompanied it. The operation of martyr Kamal 'Udwan, which was considered by all the Zionist leaders to be the biggest challenge to the state since its establishment, puts before the whole world the substantial fact that Israel's power and tyranny can be terribly shaken by Palestinian action and the supreme Palestinian ability to strike with confidence and faith in the heart of the Zionist entity and in the most sensitive and important pillars of its existence.

The second fact: We all know that U.S. President Jimmy Carter, together with his senior assistants and men of his administration, have long since given themselves up to the one definite task of dealing a blow to the political role of the PLO in the region. This was clearly expressed in the innumerable series of hostile U.S. statements issued at the highest level. This was even more clearly expressed by Alfred Atherton's moves in the region.

These moves centered basically on [words indistinct] and reviving old impotent substitutes to take their part in the game of liquidating the Palestinian question, after liquidating the main political role of the PLO. The operation of martyr Kamal 'Udwan has, therefore, come to destroy this impossible American dream and to establish on its rubble the fact that the Palestinian force is still the basic and formidable force in the area. Any attempt to distort this force or intimidate or even liquidate it will be doomed to retreat and failure.

We can clearly understand this fact by reading the results of the operation on the face of the American President, who lost his nerve in a blatant manner when he denounced the operation of martyr Kamal 'Udwan with irritable malicious phrases never pronounced before by the President of the biggest power in the world. By this frenzied reaction, he seems to prove that he has received a great shock, not at what he described as an inhuman act and its victims, but at the facts that have appeared in the land of struggle about the Palestinian force and its power to confuse his calculations and burn his most important papers.

The third fact: The masses of our Arab nation have received the news of the operation of martyr Kamal 'Udwan with all feelings of sympathy and pride. They also followed the acts of this great operation with all interest, not only because this operation has dissipated that dense screen of frustration and rupture which was imposed on them as a result of the situation created by As-Sadat's capitulatory visit, and not only because this operation has (?lit up for) the conscience and feelings of the Arab citizen a road of hope and confidence in the ability of the struggler to act and influence, but also because this operation has opened before the Arab masses a wide door to express their commitment to the Palestinian question and their rallying around the Palestinian revolution, as well as their comprehensive and absolute support for its correct course of struggle and its just national objectives.

This, brethren, is a big and substantial fact enlightened by the Palestinian revolutionary mind in the heart of the occupied homeland. Though these facts seemed to many people to be hidden for some time under a dense screen of delusion and forgery, they rose up lofty and strong at the hands of Dayr Yasin's heroes and in the same manner as they have always risen up before the Palestinian revolutionary action, which has never stopped giving and flowing forth.

'ARAFAT: ISRAEL STILL MASSING TROOPS ON LEBANESE BORDER

JN140910Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 14 March--PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that the Zionist enemy is preparing to launch a large-scale aggression against the joint forces in Lebanon. He added that the enemy has massed an armored brigade, a brigade of paratroopers and an airborne mechanized brigade for this operation.

'Arafat, who was talking to the delegations participating in the ideological seminar on the occasion of the first anniversary of the martyrdom of Kamal Junblatt last night, said: We are destined to fight and wage a vicious war and we will be afraid neither of the confrontation's battles nor of the plots.

'Arafat added that the Palestinian resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement are in the first trench in the Arab nation's struggle against imperialism and colonialism. Their outstanding sacrifices and their revolutionary cohesion have dispersed the capitulatory clouds over the Arab area.

HABASH PRAISES HEROES OF KAMAL 'UDWAN OPERATION

JN131347Y Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Beirut--George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, praised the heroes of the Kamal 'Udwan operation. He said that the first mission to be stressed by the Palestian revolution on this occasion is to stand up with new determination and outlook before the struggle of the heroic Arab masses inside occupied Palestine. Habash, who was speaking at a rally held in commemoration of one of the Palestian revolution martyrs, said that by their struggle these masses deserve serious support from the Arab nation and its revolutionary forces in their struggle against the Zionist enemy. Habash expressed his rejection of the endeavors to hold a dialog with the Jordanian regime. He described these endeavors as being linked with the settlement course represented by As-Sadat. He warned against the role planned for the Jordanian regime in the event As-Sadat's steps fail.

PLO REGRETS WALDHEIM STATEMENT ON TEL AVIV OPERATION

JN131823Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1740 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 March--The PLO has expressed regret over the statements of UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim concerning the operation of martyr Kamal 'Udwan carried out by Palestinian fedayeen in the occupied land. In a cable to Dr Waldheim the PLO said that it is regrettable that he described as terrorists the revolutionaries who are defending the rights of their people against the greatest usurpation crime committed in modern history at the hands of fascist imperialism and Zionism. The cable further said that the revolutionary action carried out by a force of our revolutionaries is a legitimate right of the Palestinian people in defense of their rights, recognized by all international and human laws, laws which are being flouted by the Zionist entity.

VOP DENOUNCES CALLAGHAN REACTION TO TEL AVIV OPERATION

JN131604Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to Arab World 1500 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] An official spokesman of the Palestinian revolution command made the following statement last night: British Prime Minister James Callaghan yesterday made statements hostile to the Palestinian people and revolution in which he included a message which he sent to terrorist Menahem Begin on the occasion of the heroic raid which our revolutionaries have been waging since the day before yesterday against the Zionist forces in the area stretching between Haifa and Tel Aviv.

We wish to remind Callaghan, who claims to be defending humanity, that the balck history of the British occupation of our land is still remembered by our Palestinian people. We wish Callaghan would read this history if he does not know it. He will find the complete tragedy of our Palestinian people, which was caused by the total cooperation of the British with Zionist terrorists like Begin, Weizman and (Shamir), who enabled the Zionist terrorist gangs to spread their influence through terror and mass massacres in which the British authorities, who were delegated to implement or cover up these actions, participated.

Callaghan should have kept silent rather than denouncing the Palestinian revolutionaries' exercising of their legitimate right, which was stipulated by humanity's rights and legitimacy. However, Callaghan wanted to continue the march of the black British history. He condemned the heroic attack of our revolutionaries against the forces of the Zionist enemy occupying our Palestinian soil.

At any rate, our people and revolution will forge ahead on the road of their just armed struggle. Our people's and revolution's march will not be stopped by such rash statements made by the prime minister of a state about which the least that can be said is that it is the primary cause of our Palestinian people's calamity and tragedy.

PLO SENDS NOTE TO ARAB LEAGUE ON U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS

NC112221Y Doha QNA in Arabic 2028 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 March--The PLO today sent a note to the Arab League, requesting the inclusion of the question of reassessing Arab-U.S. relations on the agenda of the Arab League Council which is scheduled to convene on 27 March.

The note also includes a proposal that an Arab ministerial committee be formed by the Arab League to include members from three to five states to visit the United States for contacts with the U.S. Government and information media in order to explain to them the Arab position with regard to the Palestinian issue, in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the Arab summit conferences in Rabat and Riyadh.

The note also suggests that the committee present clear and specific demands to the U.S. Government to stop supporting Israel militarily, economically and politically and to adopt at least a balanced stand with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue. It also calls for halting U.S. financial grants and aid to Israel and for ending the privileged taxation treatment granted to the Israeli benevolent establishments.

In the political field, the note calls for holding high-level and direct contacts with the PLO, for recognizing it as the legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and for halting political support for Israel in international forums.

The Palestinian note denounces the U.S. attempt to depict the Palestinian nascent state in the eyes of the world as either a power capable of destroying Israel, which is heavily armed by the United States, or as a base for the Soviet Union in the area, as if the Palestinian people's national struggle throughout the 20th century aims at establishing a base for the Soviets.

The Arab League Secretariat General has conveyed the Palestinian note to the league member states.

IRAQI OFFICIAL RECEIVES PALESTINIAN LEADERS

JN131758Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 March--Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member, received here today the leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party Walid Junblatt. He also received George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front, and a number of Palestinian resistance leaders. During the meetings they reviewed the situation in the Lebanese arena, developments in the Arab area and the firm and clear Iraqi stand toward these developments.

BAGHDAD VOP COMMENTS ON TEL AVIV OPERATION

JN132050Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Excerpt] Inspired by the new Al-Karamah epic [referring to battle fought by Jordanian Army and fedayeen against Israelis on 21 March 1968] which the Al-'Asifah heroes recorded in the heart of Palestine, our revolutionaries and masses are opposed to using our armed struggle for bargaining and settlements. With worthiness and enlightenment they say no. The heroic acts and sacrifices have never been meant to pave the way for the participation of the PLO leadership in the negotiations for settlement and liquidations. They say no, this will never happen. The revolutionaries say that there is a great contradiction between seeking to participate in the negotiations with the Zionist enemy and opening fire on the Zionist enemy. This contradiction will not be obliterated by a statement made by the so-called Palestinian official in Damascus on the legitimate rights or on the demand for a part of the territory to live in.

The As-Sadat and Husayn regimes and certain other forces have alleged that our revolutionaries and masses, by their bold operations, are seeking a place in the negotiations with the Zionist enemy, the PLO representative in Italy has done the same.

While As-Sadat expressed his deep sorrow over the results of the heroic epic carried out by our revolutionaries, the staunch Arab reactionaries did not conceal their denunciation of the operation in solidarity with the Zionist entity and U.S. imperialism. This denunciation was represented in the statements of their ambassadors in Washington. This was a natural echo of U.S. imperialism and certain other European regimes which are in solidarity with the Zionist entity.

While the PLO command ignored the stands of the Egyptian and Royal Jordanian regimes and those of the staunch Arab reactionaries, it stated that it could not understand Carter's haste in denouncing the heroic operation in Tel Aviv. Is it true that the stands of the reactionaries are passing ones? Is it true that the U.S. imperialist stand is free of objective justifications? Brothers, this is not true. The United States and the Zionist enemy are linked. This is because the Zionist enemy is an advance base for imperialism. For this reason armed struggle against the Zionist enemy will harm the U.S. imperialist presence in the Arab homeland at its core. It also constitutes the gravest danger to the imperialist interests. The United States, the source of economic and military aid to the Zionist entity, will not be neutral if this entity is exposed to danger. The PLO command's ignoring this fact is not unintentional, but is an observance of the PLO course, which at this stage is focused on contacting U.S. imperialism by any means.

KUWAIT

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

LD111111Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] The foreign minister of Austria, Willibald Pahr, this morning arrived in Kuwait on a 2-day visit. Accompanied by the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, he called on the amir of the country and later on Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Sabah.

Holds Talks

AU131126Y Vienna WIENER ZEITUNG in German 12 Mar 78 p 3 AU

[Summary] Austrian Foreign Minister Willibald Pahr, who arrived yesterday morning in Kuwait for a 2-day official visit, had talks with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah on bilateral questions and the Middle East issue. According to Kuwaiti Government sources, the Kuwaiti foreign minister told Pahr that a more active role of the West European states would be desirable in connection with the efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

Immediately before his meeting with the Kuwaiti foreign minister, Pahr was received by the Chief of State Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, and by the prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah. According to a Kuwaiti source, Pahr assured the leading men of the oil shaykhdom that the Austrian Government advocates a Middle East solution based on the complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories and the establishment of a independent Palestinian state.

"After his talk with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Foreign Minister Pahr declared that both sides are jointly convinced that the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, must take part in a settlement of the Middle East conflict." At the same time a joint Kuwaiti-Austrian economic commission has met to check the possibilities of an intensified cooperation between the two countries in all fields. According to a well-informed source, the Austrian delegation expressed the wish to intensify cooperation with the gulf states. According to the same source Austria has decided to establish an embassy in Kuwait and to appoint a charge d'affaires as its representative there for the time being. Up to now the Austrian interests in Kuwait have been represented by the Austrian Embassy in Beirut. Foreign Minister Pahr has invited his Kuwaiti counterpart for an official visit to Austria.

KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY BEGINS LOCAL TESTS, OUTLINES AIMS

LD131020Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] At 0900 today the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY--KUNA--began its test transmission at local level. In an address inaugurating the transmission, the agency stressed its intention to follow a program contributing to facilitating the task of world information media by providing it with a true picture of the various aspects of local activities and achievements and of Kuwait's contributions on the Arab and international levels toward a world in which amity, understanding and cooperation previal. The agency undertook to make every possible effort to shorten the period of its test transmission in order to launch out its ambitious interim plans, which aim at starting this autumn an expanded Arabic transmission that can be received throughout the Arab homeland, in addition to another transmission in English.

QATAR

DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

NC121522Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 12 March--Djibouti President Hassan Gouled arrived in Doha at 1630 today for a 2-day official visit at the invitation of the amir of Qatar, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al Thani, who was at the head of those who welcomed the president at Djibouti airport.

Departs 14 March

NC140830V Doha QNA in Arabic 0803 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Doha, 14 March--Djibouti President Hassan Gouled left Doha for Abu Dhabi this morning following a 2-day visit to Qatar.

SAUDI ARABIA

AR-RIYADH COMMENTS ON PALESTINIAN ATTACK

LD131930Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Press review on Palestinian attack in Israel]

[Text] The paper AR-RIYADH today stressed that the large-scale fedayeen operation near Tel Aviv has made it clear, in a practical way, that the security theory much advertised by Israel was vulnerable and impracticable, and that this theory cannot bring about peace through seizing territories. Peace, the paper said, will come only through the sincere desire to secure it by abandoning aggressive, expansionist schemes, by giving back the occupied Arab lands, and by meeting the right of the Palestinian people to set up its own state, to have self-determination. Instead of planning for revenge, as indicated yesterday by Menahem Begin and his defense minister, Weizman, the Israeli leaders, the paper said, should review the question of the territories alongside the issue of security. The fedayeen operation has emphasized that seizing territories cannot ensure peace; peace cannot be achieved by retaining lands. However far-reaching Israel's arms may be, the paper adds, there are more far-reaching, stronger arms--the arms of the Arab right.

AMIR OF BAHRAIN DEPARTS AFTER 1-DAY VISIT

LD132127Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al-Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, left Riyadh at 1730 this evening, after a 1-day visit to the kingdom. His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was at the head of those who saw off Shaykh Kalifah at the airport. After a short rest at the VIP lounge, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al-Khalifah shook hands with the high-ranking officials who came to see him off, including princes and ministers. His Majesty King Khalid then accompanied his great guest to the rostrum of honor. The Bahraini and Saudi national anthems were played. At the foot of airplane his highness the amir of Bahrain embraced His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy amir of the region of Riyadh; and Shaykh Abdullah Di'im, secretary of the capital.

Before boarding the plane his highness embraced His Majesty King Khalid who wished his highness a happy trip. In a statement made before leaving, Shaykh 'Isa expressed his gratitude and happiness at the extreme hospitality and the good fraternal welcomed accorded to him, and to the delegation accompanying him, by His Majesty King Khalid, the princes and the ministers, and the Saudi people. He also expressed the feelings of cordiality and true fraternity, and high appreciation Bahrain nurtures for the kingdom. His highness also lauded the great positive role played the the kingdom at all levels--at international, Islamic, Arab and gulf levels, and in various social, economic and political fields. He also lauded Saudi Arabia for its effective positions to fateful world issues.

He hailed the bilateral historic strong links between Bahrain and the kingdom. He said: These links are formed by the two countries being very close to each other, being neighbors, and sharing a common destiny and objectives. These links were founded by our fathers and ancestors he said, and we act with due regard to them, and we consistently endeavor to strengthen them and make them firmer. His highness concluded by lauding the valuable aid offered by the kingdom to its sister country Bahrain and its continuous, positive support for the programs and projects of development in various fields in Bahrain.

MINISTER REJECTS BARGAINING OVER OIL PRICES

NC131020Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0817 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 13 March--Prince Sultan Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the Saudi minister of defense and aviation and controller general, has stressed that Saudi Arabia rejects bargaining over oil prices because it is committed in this respect to the resolutions of OPEC. In a statement published today in the Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH, Prince Sultan said that Saudi Arabia believes in the principle of a quiet policy regarding the resolutions and measures it adopts vis-a-vis its foes and friends alike. He added that Saudi Arabia does not consider it appropriate to declare and reveal these measures before it actually begins to implement them. The paper says that Prince Sultan made this statement in response to a news agency report citing U.S. Congress sources who in turn were citing the U.S. ambassador in Jidda to the effect that Saudi Arabia might become less cooperative in curbing oil price increases if the Congress rejects U.S. President Jimmy Carter's bill to sell Saudi Arabia 60 F-15 jets.

PRESIDENTS OF MALI, SENEGAL, MAURITANIA ARRIVE

NC111556Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 11 March--Their excellencies President Moussa Traore of Mali, President Leopold Senghor of Senegal and President Moktar Ould Daddah of Mauritania arrived in Riyadh at 1700 today for a visit to the kingdom. They were met at the airport by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

Begin Talks

LD121307Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The African-Saudi summit talks began at 1030 today at the An-Nasiriyah guest house in Riyadh. The Saudi side was headed by His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and consisted of Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and chief of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of defense and aviation; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Shaykh Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; and Dr Rashad Fir'awn, the adviser to his majesty the king.

The Africa side was headed by Mali President Moussa Traore, who is the head of the Senegal River Basin League. The meeting was also attended by Senegalese President Leopold Senghor and Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah.

Last year the three African presidents toured a number of area countries to discuss the financing of some Senegal River Basin projects. Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stated that the Saudi-African talks held today centered mainly on matters pertaining to the Senegal River Basin as well as economic cooperation between the kingdom and Mali, Senegal and Mauritania.

In a statement to the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY, his royal highness said that a general review was made of the African and Arab issues from all political and economic aspects and of Arab-African solidarity and the efforts exerted by the four countries, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Mali and Mauritania in this respect. The heads of states emphasized the need for bolstering and consolidating this solidarity for the attainment of the objectives that serve the interests of the area peoples.

Senegal Leader Praises Saudis

LD130220Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] President Leopold-Sedar Senghor of Senegal has lauded the role of Saudi Arabia in strengthening Arab-Islamic solidarity and Arab-African cooperation. He said that the kingdom was playing an important role not only in the framework of the Arab League but also in the framework of the strengthening of Arab-African cooperation. This came in a declaration made today to the SAUDI NEWS AGENCY by the Senegalese president. He said that Saudi Arabia followed a balanced, wise policy, and that the Arab-African world always needed the opinion of the kingdom to resolve its political problems.

The Senegalese president has announced that King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has offered a loan for the realization of the projects laid out by the Senegal River Basin committee. On the other hand, President Senghor has stressed that for there to be a just, lasting peace in the Middle East, Israel must withdraw from all the occupied Arab territories and the rights of the Palestinian people to set up a Palestinian state in Palestine must be met.

With regard to Senegalese-Palestinian relations, President Senghor said that he was in continuous contact with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and that he received a message from him today. President Senghor also announced that, as soon as his visit to Saudi Arabia is over, he will dispatch Moustapha Cisse, Senegal's ambassador to Cairo, to see President as-Sadat, as well as to Yasir 'Arafat. The two men he said, should meet, reach an understanding, and work together for the realization of the supreme Arab objectives.

Leaders Depart 13 March

NC130910Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 0850 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 13 March--Their Excellencies President Leopold Senghor of Senegal, President Moussa Traore of Mali and President Moktar Ould Daddah of Mauritania left Riyadh this morning at the end of a 2-day visit to the kingdom in the course of their current tour of a number of states in the area.

UAE

RA'S AL-KHAYMAH RULER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO AL-WAHDAH

NC121345Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0845 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 March--Shaykh Saqr ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the UAE Supreme Council and ruler of Ra's al-Khaymah, has stressed that the dispute with the Sultanate of Oman is of the fraternal relations between the two states. He said the dispute is not new to the Arab nation because colonialism had planted mines along the borders it drew up.

He added: We have documents that will set matters right. The matter is now in the hands of UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, who alone has the right to deal with this issue.

In an interview published today in the Abu Dhabi newspaper AL-WAHDAH, Shaykh Saqr revealed that Ra's al-Khaymah Amirate had been forced to borrow money in Europe at 13 percent interest while the UAE grants long-term loans to several states at token interest rates not exceeding 2 percent. The ruler of Ra's al-Khayman explained that he had obtained these loans only after he had lost all hope of financing projects in Ra's al-Khayman Emirate. These projects had been interrupted because the currency board and the development bank had stopped financing them. He said that these had been successful economic projects estimated at 1 billion dirhams. He added: We are looking for certain quarters with which to cooperate in oil production in the emirate.

Shaykh Saqr emphasized that the resources of Ra's al-Khaymah and other emirates belong to the UAE and subsequently to the Arab nation. He noted that each emirate has been contributing according to its capability toward the UAE budget. The ruler of Ra's al-Khaymah said that the Arab territory and the Arab nation are indivisible and that the Palestinian question rests in the conscience of all the Arabs.

He said the UAE is eager to unite the voice of the Arabs and the Arab ranks. The first step, he said, should be a unified gulf policy. He also noted that the states giving support to the confrontation states have not failed and will not fail to fulfill their pan-Arab obligations toward supporting the confrontation states.

AFRICAN PRESIDENTS ARRIVE FOR TALKS WITH OFFICIALS

NC131123Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 March--Mali President Moussa Traore, Senegalese President Leopold-Sedar Senghor and Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah arrived in Abu Dhabi today from Riyadh for a 2-day visit to the UAE. They were met at Abu Dhabi airport by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan. The talks between Shayk Zayid and the three African presidents will begin this evening. The talks will deal with Arab-African questions, all aspects of Arab-African solidarity, relations between the UAE and the three African states and the UAE participation in development projects in the Senegal River Basin. The three presidents' visit to Abu Dhabi is part of their tour to several countries in the area, which began on Saturday with a visit to Saudi Arabia.

Meet With Ruler

NC132015Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1905 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 March--Official talks were held this evening in Abu Dhabi between His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan, the president of the UAE, and three African presidents: Moussa Traore, Leopold Senghor and Moktar Ould Daddah. The talks were held to discuss the UAE's possible participation in development projects of the Senegal River Basin. The consolidation of relations between the UAE and Mali, Senegal and Mauritania was also discussed at the meeting.

Prior to the discussions the three presidents held a press conference at which they talked about the aim of their current visit to the UAE, the efforts being exerted to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem and Arab-African cooperation. President Moussa Traore said that the aim of the three African presidents' visit is to hold contacts with officials in the Arab countries in order to discuss their participation in Senegal River Basin projects.

Regarding Middle East peace efforts, President Senghor praised the Egyptian president's peace initiative. He affirmed his mistrust of Menahem Begin and termed him an impediment in the way of peace.

He also praised the efforts made by Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri to restore Arab solidarity to its natural state and affirmed that the victory of the Arabs is the victory of Africa. President Senghor reaffirmed that peace in the Middle East requires complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab lands occupied in 1967 as well as Israeli recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian peole and the establishment of their independent state.

Depart 14 March

NC140857Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0820 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 14 March--Mali President Moussa Traore, Senegalese President Leopold Senghor and Mauritanian President Moktar Ould Daddah left Abu Dhbai for home this morning, following a 1-day visit to the UAE.

BRITISH MINISTER JUDD ARRIVES FOR TALKS

NC101947Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1920 GMT 10 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 March--British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Frank Judd arrived in Abu Dhabi from London this evening on a 2-day visit to the UAE to head his country's delegation to the meetings of the committee for joint cooperation between the UAE and Britain. The committee meetings begin tomorrow morning. The UAE delegation to the committee meetings will be headed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashi 'Abdallah.

During its meetings the committee will discuss the ways and means to strengthen the existing cooperation between the two countries in economics, education, health, agriculture and oil. It will also review Arab and international political developments, particularly the Middle East issue.

The committee was formed in 1975. It holds a meeting every 6 months.

Departs 12 March

NC121931Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1912 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 12 March--British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Frank Judd left Abu Dhabi for Khartoum tonight after a 3-day visit to the UAE.

AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FROM KUWAIT

NC121928Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1910 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 12 March--Austrian Foreign Minister Willibald Pahr arrived in Abu Dhabi from Kuwait this evening on a 2-day official visit, during which he will attend the meetings of the joint committee for cooperation between the two countries to discuss bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

The QNA correspondent in Abu Dhabi has learned that the Austrian foreign minister has brought with him a message from Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, for UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Departs 14 March

NC140828Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 March--Austrian Foreign Minister Dr Willibald Pahr and his delegation left Abu Dhabi for home this morning, following a 2-day visit to the UAE.

During the visit the Austrian foreign minister held talks with UAE officials on strengthening relations between the two countries, particularly in the economic and technical fields. He also handed a letter to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, dealing with the situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Austrian foreign minister was seen off at Abu Dhabi airport by Foreign Minister Ahmad Kahlifah as-Suwaydi and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah.

ECONOMIC COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS STATE OF DOLLAR

NC111436Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 1 March--Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and mineral resources, stated that an economic committee representing the Petroleum and Mineral Resources Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the investment authority and the currency board was set up today. The committee, he said, will study the effect of the fall in the value of the U.S. dollar on UAE oil royalties and on all other aspects of the economic situation.

UAE TO LINK CURRENCY TO IMF SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHTS

LD102140Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The United Arab Emirates has confirmed that it has decided to link the value of its currency unit, the dirham, to the special drawing rights of the IMF. [sentence indistinct] The United Arab Emirates has also proposed the adoption of a more diversified procedure to (?stabilize) oil prices because of the sharp decline in the value of the dollar recently. Mani Sa'd al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum minister, has proposed a new pricing system based on a basket of currencies of some Arab and industrial states in addition to the dirham.

YEMEN--PDRY

PARTY OFFICIALS LEAVE FOR BEIRUT CEREMONY

LD121640Y Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Anis Hasan Yahya, Politburo member and secretary of the Economy Department of the National Front Central Committee, and Central Committee Member Zaki Barakat left for Beirut today to take part in the ceremony to be held to mark the annniversary of the death of Junblatt.

YEMEN--YAR

MAJOR REPORTEDLY IN PRAGUE DUE TO TRIBAL DIFFERENCES

JN121259Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1237 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Prague, 12 March--Maj Majahid al-Qahhali, commander of the 'Amran district forces in the YAR arrived here 2 days ago. It is believed here that Major al-Qahhali, who has been appointed to the post of a minister plenipotentiary at the YAR Embassy in Czechoslovakia, left San'a' due to tribal differences.

YAR PROPOSES POSTPONEMENT OF ARAB LEAGUE MEETING

JN131239Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 13 March--The YAR Government has proposed the postponement of the meeting of the Arab League Council. The Yemeni Foreign Ministry today conveyed this proposal to the Arab ambassadors in San'a'. It called upon the Arab League secretary general to make rapid contacts to define a date and venue appropriate for the convocation of a meeting.

YAR Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ahmad Haydar told the Arab ambassadors that Saudi Arabia and Bahrain have supported this proposal.

The Arab League Council was scheduled to hold its ordinary session on 27 March at the level of foreign ministers in the Arab League premises in Cairo.

AL-GHASHMI RECEIVES SOVIET, INDIAN AMBASSADORS

JN122022Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Mar 78 JN

[Text] YAR Command Council Chairman Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi at 1000 today received in his office Soviet Ambassador to the YAR Vasili Kornev. During the meeting relations between the friendly countries were discussed.

The YAR leader and commander in chief of the armed forces also received at 1100 today the Indian ambassador in San'a', who handed him a message from Indian President Neela Sanjeeva Reddy.

AS-SADAT GRANTS INTERVIEW TO OCTOBER MAGAZINE

NC1116402 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1518 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 March--President Anwar as-Sadat has affirmed that the peace initiative was a culmination and a climax of the October victories. He says: I embarked on this initiative because no one before me had dared and no one after me will dare to make it. Regarding the Israeli Government's lack of response to the spirit of the initiative so far, the president says that this does not mean that the initiative has stopped or even fumbled. It means that it needs time.

In an interview he granted to Anis Mansur, chief editor of the weekly magazine OCTOBER, which will be published tomorrow, Sunday, the president states that Egypt is prepared to resume its relations with the Soviet Union if the Soviet Union wants these relations to be based on mutual respect. The president adds: Even with regard to the rejectionist states, we have no objections [to restoring relations with them]. But it is clear that they did not influence the battle before it took place or as it was taking place and have not influenced it since it took place.

In his interview President as-Sadat analyzes the signs of division in the Arab world at present. He says that the Arab world was divided before the initiative; it was divided before, during and after the October war.

The president then explains the position of the group of states calling themselves rejectionist as follows:

Libya--it opposed the October war and refused to give support to or join any unified military action. It did not participate in the oil embargo despite Al-Qadhdhafi's enthusiasm to use it as a weapon in war.

Iraq--It does not differ from Libya except in the degree of frankness.

Algeria--It is located 4,000 km from the confrontation line. President Boumediene played a role during the battle but his problem is his attempt to have a leading role in the east or west despite the fact that he has no influence on the Arab situation.

Syria--It called for a cease-fire 2 days before the cease-fire took place. Brezhnev had given the Egyptian foreign minister the text of three requests for a cease-fire President al-Asad had sent to him.

The president concludes by saying that there is no change. Those who support Egypt are still with it and those who oppose it and object to it are still against it.

In his interview, President as-Sadat analyzes the words "progressive" and "reactionary." These are terms which some Arab or other states use to label themselves. He explains that none of the states which claims to be progressive has done what Egypt has done, such as allowing freedom of expression, demolishing detention camps, upholding the supremacy of law, basing the state on institutions and allowing the establishment of parties. These states have abolished or stopped their support of these things and have stood against the state which wants to free its will from the domination of any foreign power.

The president points out that the states they call reactionary, such as Saudi Arabia and the gulf amirates, are the states which supported Egypt before, during and after the war.

They are the states which supported the battle and continue to do so. They are the ones which used the oil weapon. These states, which are accused of being reactionary, are the ones which established the Arab Military Industrial Organization and which are fulfilling all the Arab aspirations without noise or claim.

The following is the text of the interview the president has granted to Anis Mansur:

There is nothing easier than painting an ugly picture; there is nothing easier than composing an unbalanced poem; there is nothing easier than looking at the map of the Middle East and saying it is a riddle, a puzzle. We are required to understand it in order to explain it to the others and to diagnose the disease together and also remedy it together.

President as-Sadat had to illuminate and clarify the riddles of the Arab policy and to make political analysis of what is taking place between us and around us. President as-Sadat has found important evidence which has given form to a new vision of the present and a bright vision of the future, provided we utilize the treasures that are buried within us--our human resources--to bring about the rennaissance and security of Egypt and to build it with work, hope and more work.

Mr President, the picture that is in front of us in the Arab world is not clear. A political analyst has described it as a surrealistic picture and as a group of black and red smudges, interlocked and obscure. Another analyst has said that what is taking place in the Middle East is more like a masquerade--dwarfs wearing the clothes of giants, and therefore stumbling, whereas the giants are walking about with their chests bare. The rest of the description is in the same sense.

Fog is enveloping the Middle East and ruin is the inevitable end. How do you view this?

Answer: It is possible to say that whatever the defect in the picture is that it is oversimplified and faulty. This oversimplification is very costly because it is done at the expense of the truth or is a detraction from it. Such expressions as fog and ruin can be inscribed at the bottom of the picture but this does not benefit or satisfy any of the spectators or readers. To rectify the situation, we must ask ourselves before we ask those who made us spectators of our country and fate: What does this picture mean? How much does it apply to reality and what do we feel when we look at it? Is this the role of the artist and the political analyst? Is it his role to add ruin to the fog and then present both of them in one picture? If he has done this, what did he add to reality? Or what did he reveal to us of the reality? Because we are going to ask him for the remedy. Furthermore, can there possibly be a remedy without diagnosis? And who is going to diagnose the disease and who is going to remedy it? Political analysts commit the mistake of borrowing the pens and eyes of the foreign writers and then look at Arab reality. Because of this, they then talk to us about something that does not exist.

As a former journalist, I say that there are two kinds of political writing--political editing and political analysis. In political analysis a person should pick up a news item and then comment on it quickly. This is necessary but the fault in it is when the writer becomes the slave of news agencies and radios and he lets them shake and excite him and push his pencil and hand.

In political analysis a writer should receive the reports, articles and information, then analyze, arrange and study them, sort out what is true and what is false, determine the historical background and then write, slowly and most reasonably, a political analysis which would not be tantamount to a diagnosis only but to a treatment as well.

If the political editor is an ant which amasses what it needs, then the political analyst is an ant which moves among the various sources to collect all it can and then come up with a tasty and palatable item. I do not say that we are the victims of professional errors--that is to say, that we do not discriminate between political editing and political analysis--but we are the victims of what the foreigners write with good or bad intentions. The foreign political analysts might be more skilled and comprehensive in their analyses, but their fault is that they see things from a distance and they are not unbiased. What they come up with is not a political analysis but political defamation or a violent evil analysis because the matter does not primarily concern them but it concerns us most of all. We have copied their style in writing and copied their outlook of us. We have forgotten that we, too, must analyze but with a great respect for ourselves and with great hope in our future. This is a trust of the pen, a necessity of life and a national duty as well.

Question: Your Excellency the President, if it is said, for example, that the Arab nation is divided and that no two neighboring fraternal states are in agreement on a plan or aim, do you consider this very clear picture as being vague also and that we copied it from the West and that we are disregarding truth. There is no agreement between Syria and Iraq. Indeed, they are more bitter enemies than Russia and China. There is no agreement between Libya and Algeria or between them and Tunisia, and this applies to the other Arab states.

Answer: Even this I do not consider as something new. There is a difference between saying that the Arab world is divided and that the Arab world has become more divided. We must ask those who say this: When has the Arab world been united or joined in a federal or confederal union? It has never been united. I do not rule out the possibility of its being united in more strongly in the future. The Arab world was divided before, during and after the October war. Let us look at the states which call themselves the rejectionist states. Libya, for example, opposed the October war before it took place and after it was finished. It also opposed it after our victory and continues to do so. Libya was not satisfied by merely rejecting the October war, but it adopted a stand. It is true that it was a trivial and useless stand, but it refused to give aid and it rejected any unified military action. It distorted every true accomplishment. Despite Al-Qadhdhafi's tremendous enthusiasm to use petroleum as a weapon in the war, he did not participate in the oil embargo.

Iraq's stand might have been more honorable than that of Libya because Iraq frankly declared, which I respect, that it would not participate in the oil embargo. The attitude of Iraq was different from that of Libya with respect to the degree of its frankness only. Libya turned its face to one side and said no, but Iraq looked us in the face and said no. Iraq only offered aid of 100 million [pounds]. I do not know for sure if Iraq has contributed this sum yet.

Those who copy the foreigners' way of thinking say that Libya's oil royalties amount to $9 billion and that this is a tremendous power. It is true that this is a tremendous power, but how much of this has been spent on the battle or given as aid. Nothing. Libya is not strong with or without its money. It has no strength and no weight either.

Algeria is 4,000 km from the frontline. President Boumediene played a role during the battle, which I praised. Boumediene has attempted to play a leading Arab role, be it in the east or the west, but Boumediene's problem is that he cannot influence the Arab situation for this is an unreasonable ambition and such a role is much bigger than he.

As for Syria, it entered the war and came out of it a number of days later. Syria did not even want to join in the war. It asked for a cease-fire 2 days before the firing started [as received]. This is a definite fact which I have referred to many times, although I have tried to play it down. Syria, however, did ask for a cease-fire, three times. I could not believe it. A reply was received from Hafiz al-Asad affirming that the Russians were lying, but when our foreign minister went to Moscow, Brezhnev received him and asked him: Why is As-Sadat angry with us? Why does he think that we are deceiving him? He then gave the Egyptian foreign minister the text of the three requests sent by President Al-Asad asking for a cease-fire.

The Ba'th Party then claimed that it was I who ceased firing. It opposed the first disengagement agreement and then blessed it. It objected to the second disengagement agreement and then praised it. In other words, it opposed everything that Egypt did and then supported and embraced it.

So nothing has changed. Those who support Egypt are still with it and those who oppose it and object to it are still doing so. This historical psychological rule will always be valid. The smaller the state the bigger its complexes.

Question: Thank you for this explanation, Mr President. You have confirmed the existence of this fragmentation and have thus answered those who imagined that they discovered it and who were happy with their discovery, and this was echoed after them by the parrots of political analysis. However, if we were to go along and say, as they do, that there are progressive Arab states and reactionary Arab states and that their attitudes toward the October war and the initiative were based on their political beliefs, should we again risk the use of such words as progressive and reactionary as we did in the past when we used such words as fragmentation, loss and fog?

Answer: There must be correction and explanation. Every professional writer or thinker should use whatever words he likes provided that he is clear and provided that we agree on the meanings of the words, or on the kind of currency we are dealing with. This is reasonable and acceptable in every dialog. It is in fact essential for the dialog, so long as we arrive at a general concept.

Let us also ask ourselves: Are Libya, Algeria, Syria and Iraq progressive states? Has any one of these states been able to do what Egypt has done, such as allowing freedom of opinion, abolishing detention camps, applying the law to everyone, building a state of institutions and permitting the formation of parties? Does progressiveness mean that we oppose any state which seeks to free its will from any foreign domination? Does progressiveness mean suspending or canceling aid?

Does progressiveness mean terrorism, hijacking of planes, assassination of [PLO representative] Al-Hammami in London and Yusuf as-Siba'i in Nicosia? And does progressiveness mean that the Soviet Union should withhold arms from Egypt--the biggest Arab state and the Arab state most capable of influencing the course of events and of causing things to happen, as it has done and will continue to do, despite those who deny the greatness of Egypt?

The mistake we must ponder for a long time is a mental mistake. Laziness has prolonged the life of this mistake. There are wrong admissions to which we have adhered, either advertently or inadvertently. One of these wrong admissions is that we were once told that Egypt is an agricultural state and that it must remain so. Egypt has become an industrial state in addition to being an agricultural state. We have also been told that Egypt is the gift of the Nile, that is to say, that the Nile alone irrigates Egypt and permits the expansion of its agricultural area. We have been able to make the Nile the gift of Egypt and of its people. We have built dams on the Nile, have utilized its water sensibly and have generated power from it. We will increase the amount of agricultural land.

It was also said that the Israeli soldier was invincible, but we defeated the Israeli soldier. It was also said that the Suez Canal was a water barrier we could not cross, but we crossed it and destroyed an armed barrier--the Bar-Lev line.

We also have been told that there are reactionary and progressive states. We have seen what those who claim to be progressive have done. It is the states which have been branded as reactionary, such as Saudi Arabia and the gulf emirates, which supported us during and after the war. It is these states which helped us during the battle and continue to do so. It is these states which used the oil weapon. Are they reactionary states because they are supporting our struggle for the liberation of our land and will?

Earlier we used to call Israel an alleged state. We used this expression for 30 years and believed it to the extent that we allowed ourselves to relax militarily and politically. It was during the relaxation that Israel came to pull Palestine, the Golan Heights, West Bank, Gaza and Sinai from under our feet. We are the victims of a voluntary or involuntary addiction of false slogans and anesthetizing expressions. Proof of all this is found in the Arab world newspapers and radios. If there is anyone who can destroy the Arab nation and defeat it on its land with its own weapons, it is the mercenary deceivers who hold the hired pens.

It is the states they brand as reactionary that have set up the Arab Military Industrial Organization. At its recent meeting, which was chaired by Amir Sultan, this organization represented the apex of Arab nationalism. General al-Jamasi could not attend the meeting because he was busy with the Cyprus events. At this meeting, the organization approved a strategy on the highest level, thus realizing the aspirations of the Arab nation without any noise, clamor or false slogans.

Question: Mr President, there are many interpretations of the peace initiative, the preliminary steps, its nature and results. One of these interpretations is that the initiative is completely in harmony with your nature to the extent that it could be said that this initiative began when you started your political life. You are against violence as the only method for solving problems and you are for law, freedom and justice. These are olive trees on both sides of the road to peace. Would a question on the beginning of your peace initiative somehow be out of date because we are supposed to ask now about the results of the initiative and not about the steps leading to it?

Answer: The reason for the many interpretations is the nature of the initiative, its enormity, extensive effects and continuous renovation, which is beyond all imagination. I have heard many of these interpretations, which have greatly embarrassed me. They have given me more attributes than I deserve. But I can confirm, and it is well known, that on 4 February 1971, 22 years after the beginning of the Israeli-Arab conflict, I announced that I was prepared for a peace agreement. I said that Israel could withdraw in stages. I advocated that UN envoy Jarring come to complete the withdrawal between the Arabs and Israel in 6 months. I said this very clearly but my call was not heard and nobody paid attention to it. They might have considered it as a bubble in the air, a thoughtless word or a daydream. The meaning of my call was that we should face reality and clearly understand that Israel was not an alleged state, that nobody could throw it into the sea, that we had not been able to do this and cannot do it now and that Israel was backed by a rich and strong mother, which supplied it with rockets and gold and extended it unlimited protection. This is a fact. I asked that we go beyond admitting the fait accompli by moving this fait accompli in the direction of peace. When I expelled the Soviet experts, I freed my will and gave an example to others. I also confirmed my political philosophy that Russia was an imperialist state which had aims and ambitions in the area. These were the aims of tsarist Russia, and they are the aims of Soviet Russia. The former was in search of the warm waters of the Mediterranean or the Red Sea and so is the latter. [passage indistinct]

Answer: Exactly. If the October war was an earthquake in Israel, the initiative was an earthquake that shook the whole world. Dust has risen with the earthquake, fiery lava has come out, clouds have gathered and rain has fallen. Some time must pass before the earth and dust settle down, the sky becomes clear and the sun can be seen again.

When I was in the United States I declared that the United States itself cannot be a mere witness of a contract to be concluded between Egypt and Israel and neither can it be a mere guarantor of the Geneva conference but that it is a party. This is a fact or else how can we explain that the United States supports and gives unbounded protection to Israel. It is a party and must remain so.

This leads me again to correct some of the erroneous expressions which have set traps for our pens when we say that the United States is with Israel, both when it is right and wrong; that it is not prepared to do anything; that even if it is prepared, it is not willing to do it; that if it is willing, it will not exert pressure and that even if it exerts pressure, it is only to embrace and kiss Israel and such similar talk which causes despair. The truth refutes all this. The United States has assumed a role and it is serious in bringing the various parties closer.

I invited the Soviet Union to attend the Cairo conference, but it did not attend. I did not prevent it from attending but the Soviet Union itself opted not to participate in the preparation for peace. I am not pro-American and I was not pro-Russian. I am Egypt and my will is Egyptian. I will remain so and Egypt will remain so as long as I live.

I say with all frankness and no embarrassment whatsoever that I embarked on my initiative because nobody before me dared to do so and nobody after me will dare to do so. The initiative tops the October victories. Even more, the initiative has been a crowning for October, and this fact is appreciated only by those who suffered the setback sustained in the 1967 war.

Question: Mr President, permit me to use a widespread foreign expression to describe what is going on in the Arab area. They have described what is going on as a boiling pot. Because this pot is boiling, things in it are simmering and everything is in constant motion and in a continuous flow. Do you believe that this description is correct?

Answer: This expression or this description is correct to some extent. However, it is inaccurate. This is so because what is happening is more serious and deeper than saying that things are simmering in the pot. This motion is closed and limited. More correctly said, things are moving in "a narrow vicious circle." As such, this is a futile motion.

But what I now perceive is more splendid and greater. If history has imperative laws, then the first of these laws is the dynamism of history, that is, history's forward motion, because history knows neither reversals nor setbacks. However, history always forges ahead. There will be no going back on what has happened in Egypt. There will be no going back on liberties, the supremacy of the law and democracy.

There will be no going back on the Egyptian psychological, military and national results of the October victories. And there will be no going back on the peaceful initiative. This initiative has taken its place and has chosen its method. It is heading forward, rapidly or slowly. However, it is in an ardent movement--and it will not go backward.

To complete this flowing vitality in Egypt, we are now heading for completing the process of building and completing the liberation of man from coercion, oppression, poverty, disease, ignorance and fear. In other words, we are heading for general security and the feeling of absolute security. It remains for us to safeguard man against hunger. Therefore, we will proceed to the desert to explore and cultivate it and to add a green area to Egypt's land so that the new land will be the Egyptians' gift to their cherished mother--Egypt. We must also take out of our mind another illusion, namely, that the people are a burden to their country and that it is imperative to reduce the 40 millions by immigration, war, disease or coercion. The people are a burden if they are idle, ignorant and lax. God has endowed us with all his wisdom and greatness. This is so because the people, or, in other words, the manpower potential, are Egypt's greatest resource and its best fountain. This manpower potential becomes "raw material" if we do not exploit it, if we do not polish it and if we do not put it to work and give it hope. Gold, silver and oil remain "raw material" buried in the ground until they are processed and analyzed, or, in other words, until they are exploited.

There are many countries without natural resources. However, they have manpower resources. Japan, for instance, does not have coal or iron, but it imports raw materials and polishes them through its creative capability, that is, by exploiting its manpower potential. The difference between the deaf, mute and blind raw material and the guided and enlightened potential is like the difference between the steam generated from water boiling in a pot over a fire and the steam which moves a locomotive on its wheels and enables it to pull scores of railway cars. The steam of the pot is blind and spontaneous, but that of the locomotive is an enlightened force which obeys rules and laws. An ancient Arab poet said: A stalk in its soil is a kind of wood. In other words, "a stalk of frankincense" is a piece of wood when it is in the ground. But if frankincense is thrown into the fire, it yields its aromatic smell.

What we are now doing is completing Egypt's future, which must rely on the labor of its sons. We are building cities and roads, opening canals and deepening the soil. To put it briefly, Egypt is in a state of labor. In other words, Egypt is in the state which precedes a healthy birth. All the doctors are affirming that "Egypt," our mother, is in good health and that, God willing, it will safely give birth to a healthy child.

In the countryside we know how to churn milk; that is, we know how to keep on shaking it until butter forms. And we also know labor; that is, the pain which precedes birth--and doctors insist that labor is necessary and that a mother must shout because shouting and deep breathing foster birth itself. Labor precedes birth and is a prerequisite for the safety of the mother and the baby.

Therefore, the initiative is not Egypt's most significant achievement. However, all these factors together are the greatest and most splendid thing Egypt's people have achieved. It is neither a surprising or strange thing for Egypt's sons to dream of a more splendid future in the eighties when we will have doubled the canal tolls and our oil wealth, coupled with abundant food for every one and peace for every mother.

The greatest fear of the rejectionist state is these labor pains of Egypt, because the rejectionist states have achieved nothing. They are afraid of trailing behind Egypt. Not a single one of the rulers of these states, who wants to remain in power at any cost, dares to shatter the bonds fettering freedom, place the law above everybody or let roses of all kinds bloom, as Mao Tse-tung had said. What has been achieved in Egypt is the greatest fear haunting these persons, who are ruling their people by terrorizing them.

If the doctors on the one hand say that disease is contagious, the historians, on the other hand, believe that health is also contagious. Therefore, the contagion of health and correction must inevitably spread in every direction.

If we viewed the initiative and divested it of all its advantages and we were hard on ourselves, the least we would accept is that the initiative would show what we would be like in 1997--that is, 20 years after the initiative was declared. Since we deduct these 20 years from our political life and add them to our ages and the ages of the generations that come after us, we must continue to foster the initiative. It is certain that we have not lost and will not lose anything.

As for the decision on the initiative, I did not make it in my capacity as head of state, leader of a party or a philosopher advocating a doctrine. I made it in my capacity as head of a noble and honest Egyptian family. It makes me happy that this family has chosen me, and its choice has been an honor even though some little people exist in it. So that we may always ascertain that it is a natural family and not a fabricated or falsified partisan family [sentence incomplete]. However, nothing turns out to be true, nothing has turned out to be true and nothing will turn out to be true other than truth.

Nothing would have been easier for me than to stop at the October victories and plan for the state until the end of the century and then, at the end of my term of office in 1982--that is, if I live until then--to leave everything to the president who would succeed me. I would thus leave for him a developed country and a great victorious army, instead of leaving him a heavy legacy that would be worse than what I inherited, even though it could not possibly be worse.

However, I could not stop for a single moment from doing what I believed to be a moral, national and pan-Arab duty. I am eager to have Egypt complete its grandeur at home and abroad, in the Egyptian, Arab and international spheres.

Question: Mr President, in a previous statement, while talking about the Kremlin leaders, you said that Brezhnev was the best one of them because he has more political wisdom. You said that if the relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union were restored, the credit for that would go to this man. Foreign politicians and diplomats have interpreted this as an indication of a possible restoration of relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union or a prelude to this. Is there a rapprochement between Egypt and the Soviets or between the Soviets and Egypt?

Answer: We have not severed relations with the Soviet Union despite all that has happened. We have only recalled the Egyptian ambassador. However, we have done something else with regard to the rejectionist states. We have been compelled, regrettably, to sever relations with them because the heads of these states have gone beyond the limits of protocol and insulted Egypt and its people and disavowed its historic role. Therefore, we did not freeze our relations with them but severed them completely. Let us see what these states can do in their true size without support from Egypt.

However, if the Soviet Union wants to resume its relations with us on the basis of mutual respect, I have no objection at all. Even with regard to the rejectionist states, we also have no objection. But it is clear that they did not influence the battle before it took place or as it was taking place and have not influenced it since it took place. Whether they want it or not, they have, as of now, to face the labor pains and the pains of birth. This is the inevitability of history.

Question: Mr President, if the Israeli Government does not respond to the spirit of the initiative in the coming months what would happen after that?

Answer: This would not mean that the peace initiative has stopped or even fumbled. It would mean that it needs time. The broth still needs a low fire to cook. The relationship between Egypt and Israel will continue to exist until October when the second disengagement agreement and the mandate of the UN Emergency Forces stationed between Egypt and Israel expires. Let us wait and see what will happen.

MENA REPORTS AS-SADAT NEW YORK TIMES INTERVIEW

NC121600Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] New York, 12 March--President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has stated that he believes that the time has come for U.S. President Jimmy Carter to state his terms for breaking the diplomatic stalemate in the Middle East.

In an interview he granted to the famous American political commentator James Reston, President as-Sadat said that in his view, the United States should assume its responsibility as a partner and not as a mediator in the negotiations.

President as-Sadat defined his idea of President Carter's responsibility, saying: My definition of this responsibility is that peace is more important and precious than a piece of land. He added that he would like President Carter to apply what he has already declared in the field of human rights and the nonacquisition of others' land by force. This is a moral issue.

President as-Sadat also said: I should like President Carter to tell the Israelis that in the field of security, we also have a claim of security, because the United States has provided Israel with the most sophisticated arsenal on earth in the field of traditional arms.

In his interview, which has been published by the New York TIMES, President as-Sadat said that if Begin does not change his mind before his arrival in Washington, he would answer him within a few days. President as-Sadat added that he would have understood if Begin had refused to invite him to Israel last November on the ground that more time was needed to prepare such a radical diplomatic switch. The president further said that Begin had misled the public on Egypt's policy on the Sinai passes, the Israeli settlements and President as-Sadat's promise not to permit a main force of the Egyptian armed forces to go east beyond the Jidda and Mitla passes after the restoration of Sinai in a peace agreement.

In his interview, President as-Sadat said that a great opportunity was being lost in not proceeding faster with the diplomatic opportunity which his visit to Israel has provided. The president explained that Egypt is the biggest Arab state, the state where the decision of war or peace is taken. He added: This area has got trust of and friendly relations with the United States. This has never taken place before. We were waiting for confrontations all the time in the past. We were in contradiction all the time, but there is a deep trust now, and I think this is a very important moment in the history of the conflict.

President as-Sadat went on: Nobody knows what will happen tomorrow. A new president might come and act exactly like President Johnson acted before, or another president might come here in Egypt and he might not like to follow the same course. But all I can tell you is that my people intend to have the best relations with the United States.

Regarding his personal impressions since the Middle East negotiations were suspended recently, President as-Sadat said that when he went to Washington last month, he was extremely disheartened but his morale rose after his talks with President Carter and his visits with Western European leaders. President as-Sadat added that President Carter has always had such an effect on him.

He said: Last April, I was with President Carter and we were discussing peace, natural peace. There were three items on our agenda: the land occupied after the 1967 war, the nature of peace and the Palestinian problem. On the first item, we did not differ. On the nature of peace, we spent long hours discussing it.

President Carter told me that Israel is asking for diplomatic relations, open borders, government exchanges, normal relations and so forth. I told him that Israel should declare that it is ready to return the land it occupied after 1967 and that every party should have the right to discuss the security issue, because I recognize that there is a security issue for Israel that should be dealt with in this declaration. Israel should declare that it is ready to solve the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. In return, I said that I admit that the Israeli security issue must be met.

In his interview, President as-Sadat expressed his opposition to the Soviet Union's foreign policy and wondered about the effectiveness of Washington's response to the Soviet-Cuban intrusion into Africa. He recalled that he had warned the Carter administration last April that communist aid to Angola was just the beginning of a Soviet threat in Ethiopia.

President as-Sadat added that no one believed him then, but the threat was now real, not only to Somalia but to the Sudan also. The threat could be for Egypt as well.

James Reston, who interviewed the president, said that his excellency pointed out indirectly that Moscow had shown some interest in Chad, which is situated to the southwest of Egypt, and that he had received what could be described as an ultimatum from the Soviet Union not to interfere with Moscow's African policy.

President as-Sadat said that Egypt is in a touchy situation with regard to all this. It does not want to obtain arms from the Soviet Union, as happened in the past, but it is now starting to obtain a promise of military aid from the United States.

President as-Sadat said that even this promise includes the principle that the arms supplied by the United States will not be used in helping Egypt's friends to defend their freedom in Africa.

Regarding the principal issues in the Middle East negotiations, President as-Sadat said that he can only propose perseverance and hope that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin will one day realize that As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem has truly presented a new concept and a new opportunity for peace in the Middle East.

Despite this, President as-Sadat added that he does not see any indication that the Israeli leader has adapted himself to the facts. There is nothing that indicates that he will do so unless President Carter presents specific recommendations which Israel cannot ignore.

The well-known political commentator James Reston had begun the interview with President as-Sadat with a foreword on his personal impressions of President as-Sadat and his trip to Jerusalem and the president's profound faith in the sincerity of his call for peace.

James Reston said that President as-Sadat reminds his visitors of the late Senator Arthur Vandenberg, who had moved from calling for U.S. isolation to calling for universality at the end of the last world war. This change was a tactical, political basis which later turned into something closer to a worldwide national doctrine. The same thing applies to President as-Sadat. The reaction to his Jerusalem trip has turned him from a regional politician into an international personality. He is now playing this role with the enthusiasm and zeal of a believer.

James Reston said: At this critical moment in the Middle East negotiations, U.S. President Jimmy Carter finds out that it is imperative for him to choose between President as-Sadat, who speaks of peace in all faith and with enthusiasm, and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, who demands peace and the sword at the same time.

James Reston added: President as-Sadat considers that this moment passes quickly in history and that the dangers ensuing from delaying the exploitation of this moment are greater than risking the achievement of peace.

While As-Sadat talks about an overall settlement in this troubled area of the world, Begin speaks of the settlements. Reston quotes the president as saying that love can solve numerous problems and that if the matter is one of his living in neighborliness, in the full sense of neighborliness, then I am ready for this. Reston added: And this is the reason which induced President as-Sadat to decide to go to Jerusalem. Reston illustrated the president's viewpoint in this respect by saying that prior to the Jerusalem visit, the Israeli Government would not believe anything President as-Sadat said. He, too, would not believe anything Menahem Begin said. Furthermore, amid such suspicions and fears, going to an expanded Geneva conference would be futile. Consequently, it became imperative to do something which would effectively change the atmosphere.

Reston said that President as-Sadat was asked why he acted so hastily and why he believes in surprise diplomacy. The president answered that he believed that someone had to smash the psychological barrier between us and Israel and this could come about only through a shock which would alert people and move them to new ways of thinking. Reston mentioned that President as-Sadat added: "It seems that there is a certain thing in my nature, namely, that I am not a traditional politician and I do not desire to see myself as a traditional politician. Furthermore, here in my country, and if you refer back to and read my previous and various speeches, you would realize that I always preach love and the state of the one family--and I have succeeded in doing this. My people do not rally around me as a political leader, but as a father. I am indeed very proud of this. In his comment, Reston added that it is difficult to listen to President as-Sadat's struggling to express his deep feelings without being convinced of his sincerity.

In concluding his comments, James Reston said: Some courageous new strike by President Carter might break the stalemate--a matter on which, it seems, the two sides agree. Will President Carter be influenced by President as-Sadat's philosophy, will he continue to finance an Israeli policy he disapproves of, or will he seek to give some guarantees concerning the borders which would make "the theological security" [amn thiyuluji] more agreeable to Jerusalem?

President as-Sadat hopes that these questions will be raised when Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin visits the White House.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES U.S. AMBASSADOR

NC131616Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1558 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 March--Egyptian Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today met with U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts. They discussed the latest developments in the Middle East situation and the outcome of the visits President Carter's envoy Alfred Atherton made to Egypt and Israel. The meeting, which lasted an hour, falls within the framework of the continuing contacts between Egypt and the United States aimed at giving impetus to the Middle East issue so as to achieve an overall and just solution of the issue.

Israeli Retaliation Discussed

NC140716Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0708 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 March--Egypt has explained to the United States the gravity of any retaliatory action which might be taken by Israel in reply to the Tel Aviv bus operation carried out by Palestinian fedayeen.

This was explained during the meeting yesterday between Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Hermann Eilts. The foreign minister affirmed that a military action by Israel will increase the acts of violence in the area, resulting in a further deterioration of the situation.

The newspaper AL-AHRAM reports today that Egypt has reaffirmed to the United States that the reasons for the violence in the area are the hampering of efforts to achieve peace and the lack of response to President Anwar as-Sadat's initiative. AL-AHRAM says that the foreign minister reconfirmed to the U.S. ambassador the statement which was issued by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry on Sunday, a statement which contained Egypt's stand on the need to fulfill the legitimate demands of the Palestinian people and to encourage President as-Sadat's initiative of advancing toward peace.

AMMAN AR-RA'Y: SOVIET OFFICIAL VISITS CAIRO

JN101512Y Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Mar 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Cairo--Exclusive to AR-RA'Y--It has been learned in Cairo that a senior Soviet official visited Cairo a few days ago and met with senior Egyptian officials. Observers described the Soviet officials' talks in Cairo as important.

ROMANIAN-EGYPTIAN MILITARY DISCUSSIONS CONCLUDE

NC121620Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 March--The final session of military talks between Egypt and Romania was held this afternoon at the armed forces general command headquarters. The Egyptian side was headed by Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war porduction. The Romanian side was headed by Col Gen Ion Coman, minister of national defense of Romania. The discussions were attended on the Egyptian side by the assistant war and war production minister, Maj Gen Engineer 'Ali Shahin; the air force chief of staff, Air Maj Gen Muhammad Nabih al-Kasiri; the assistant chief of staff, Maj Gen Mustafa Sadiq; and the Egyptian military attache in Romania, Brig Gen Mustafa Talabah.

On the Romanian side the discussions were attended by members of the military delegation accompanying Coman, Romanian Ambassador in Cairo Petru Burlacu and the Romanian military attache.

At the end of the discussions, Al-Jamasi said they discussed the military relations between Romania and Egypt. He added that discussions on cooperation between the two countries in other fields were completed and that the Romanian defense minister's visit to Egypt was successful and achieved its objectives.

At the end of the discussions General al-Jamasi handed out the medals which the president and armed forces supreme commander awarded the Romanian guest and the delegation accompanying him on the occasion of their visit to Egypt.

Visit to Luxor

LD112319Y Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1923 GMT 11 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, AGERPRES, 11/3/78--Colonel-General Ion Coman, minister of national defence of Romania, now heading the Romanian military delegation on a visit to Egypt, called at military units and learning establishments and economic objectives [as received].

In the company of Army General Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister, minister of war and war production of Egypt, Colonel-General Ion Coman and the Romanian military delegation visited Luxor and its surroundings.

Romanian Minister Leaves

NC121622Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 March--Col Gen Ion Coman, minister of national defense of Romania, and the accompanying military delegation left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a 5-day visit to Egypt. Coman was seen off at the airport by Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, armed forces personnel, and Romanian Ambassador in Cairo Petru Burlacu.

FOREIGN MINISTER CONFERS WITH SOMALI AMBASSADOR

NC111440Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1404 GMT 11 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 11 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today received Somalia's Ambassador in Cairo Abdulrahim Farah. The discussions at this meeting dealt with the situation in the Horn of Africa and the efforts which are being exerted to achieve a peaceful settlement of the dispute there within the OAU framework.

This meeting comes within the framework of the continuing consultations Egypt is holding to help bring about a solution which would guarantee stability for and the restoration of fraternal relations among the peoples of this area, particularly after the decision of the Somali Government to withdraw its forces from western Somalia. Observers consider this decision as a constructive step toward the finding of a settlement to the dispute.

AL-AHRAM on Mediation Efforts

LD110010Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 10 March--AL-AHRAM reports in tomorrow's issue that as of tomorrow the Egyptian Foreign Ministry will launch contacts with the Somali and Ethiopian ambassadors in Cairo as well as with some of the African capitals concerned in an attempt to contain the conflict in the Horn of Africa. The paper publishes a statement by a responsible source at the Foreign Ministry saying that Egypt declared its readiness to mediate between Somalia and Ethiopia several weeks ago and discussed the question of the withdrawal of Somali forces from western Somalia with the Somali foreign minister, who visited Egypt 5 days ago, and earlier with the Somali president.

The source said that Egypt had decided to take several steps in order to reach an African settlement for the bloody struggle in the region of the Horn of Africa. He also said that Egypt would welcome political missions from Somalia and Ethiopia to come to Cairo in order to hear their views on the manner and method of containing the crisis and to prepare the ground to solve it. He also said that Egypt would also welcome (?sending) a mission on a higher level to Somalia and Ethiopia for the same task and to prepare the appropriate atmosphere for a solution. Within the framework of these steps, the source asserted, Egypt is coordinating its efforts with the African countries which are undertaking the same task in order to coordinate good offices. Egypt also sent a delegation to Djibouti at the beginning of the conflict in order to stress the importance of avoiding the involvement of this newly independent state in the crisis.

The official source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said that Egypt has affirmed that its good offices do not conflict with the mediation Nigeria and other African countries are carrying out nor with that of the OAU committee but rather are in coordination with them. During the contacts that will begin within the next few hours the list of the African countries with whom Egypt will coordinate will be determined.

AS-SADAT REPORTEDLY TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA IN APRIL

NC130902Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0823 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 13 March--The Kuwaiti weekly magazine AL-YAQAZAH today quotes an Arab diplomatic source in Cairo as saying that Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat will visit Saudi Arabia in April. The magazine says that Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will soon visit Saudi Arabia at the invitation of Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

AS-SADAT RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM KING KHALID

NC131235Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1222 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 13 March--Vice President Husni Mubarak today was handed a message to President as-Sadat from King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, ruler of Saudi Arabia. The message was delivered by Saudi Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd ar-Rahman Aba al-Khayl during his meeting with Husni Mubarak today.

AS-SADAT TALKS WITH LONDON OBSERVER CORRESPONDENT

LD131351Y London OBSERVER in English 12 Mar 78 p 2 LD

[Article from Gavin Young in Cairo]

[Text] "The whole world opinion is with me. I have chosen my fate. Nothing can put the clock back now."

In these glowing terms President as-Sadat of Egypt expressed himself yesterday. Talking to me in a fishermen's hostel in the Al-Fayyum oasis 50 miles from Cairo, he added smiling: "So I am not preparing for war or anything like that."

As the Israeli prime minister, Mr Menahem Begin, prepared yesterday to fly to Washington to see President Carter, Mr as-Sadat spent the day being mobbed by thousands of peasants in the green heart of one of Egypt's agricultural paradises. The burden of what he said was that it takes a very long time indeed to prove his peace initiative a failure. "I don't know what Syria and the PLO will do when they see my initiative has finally succeeded. 'Arafat is in a fix."

He repeated once again that a separate peace--one dividing Egypt from the rest of the Arab Middle East--is "out of the question."

I asked him if my impression was wrong from reading his autobiography (which begins serialisation in the OBSERVER today) that, because of the trauma of the British occupation and later the Suez affair, he nurtured some resentment against the British.

The president replied: "Completely untrue. Let me tell you a joke. When Mr Callaghan came to Aswan, my vice-president and his wife met them and brought them to dinner with me. I said to Callaghan: 'You know once we were under occupation from Britishers from the outside, now I am dominated by the British from here--my wife and my vice-president's wife are both half-British.' No, the occupation and Suez are settled. We are perfect friends now."

Earlier Mr as-Sadat had said: "I never go back on my word. And I want to stress six points. I have offered them to Israel.

"One, demilitarised zones; two, limited armament zones behind the demilitarised zones and a much bigger demilitarised zone in Sinai because it is much bigger than Israel; four, [as published] UN forces in Sharm ash-shaykh; five, a combined Egyptian-Israel committee to supervise the peace agreement; and six--I said to Weizman, the Israeli defence minister: 'if I were in your shoes I'd give up all the other five for point six'--open boundaries, diplomatic and economic relations and exchanges, normal exchanges between two good neighbours."

Mr as-Sadat went on: "However, the dictionary describes good neighbourliness, I will offer it Mr Begin."

When Mr as-Sadat arrived this morning, the town erupted in pandemonium and stampede.

Roads for miles were lined with excited men. At village social centres girls at modern looms and men weaving baskets suddenly began sewing and weaving like blue murder when the president stepped up in a smart light linen suit and tennis shoes and placed an order.

This was As-Sadat the national father-figure. He was among the people who are the majority of Egyptians, the fellahin, and may well be the best of them. He was among those who have uncomplainingly given two generations of sons and lovers since 1948 in five major wars--four against Israel and one in Yemen.

Here Mr as-Sadat, stopping to talk to a milkman or pat a water buffalo on the head, played once again the part of the peasant boy from Mit Abu al-Kawm, the village he describes in his book.

He was making a well-publicised tour of Upper Egypt and the western cases. Yesterday, the idea of peace enveloped the shouting crowds like a more benevolent hamseen, the dusty wind that bedevilled us all day. And like the hamseen, it brought feelings of unease. No one knows whether there will be a real peace or not. Even As-Sadat, puffing his pipe, cannot be sure.

His mood from the time before he went to Washington last month has obviously was really disappointed and disheartened. [sentence as published] From what I've seen so far, Begin's attitude is discouraging, really. If he continues to have the same ideas--well, let's hope he'll change." [sentence as published] That was the nearest As-Sadat came to, if not pessimism, at least a kind of wistfulness.

As I took the windswept road back to Giza and Cairo, Mr as-Sadat was off in his helicopter to carry the euphoria of a much-yearned-for peace to more villages which would have to supply--as tragically usual--the cannon fodder for the next holocaust if no settlement can be found.

AL-AKHBAR ASSAILS EGYPTIAN 'MEN OF LETTERS' IN IRAQ

LD1100000Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Mar 78 p 6 LD

[Editorial: "The Paupers of Communism"]

[Excerpts] When the communist Bukharin entered Moscow leading the peasant masses during the communist revolution he addressed them saying: We shall be invincible with the paupers of Asia and Africa.

This has been the policy which the communists have never given up. They trap the paupers in Africa and Asia and turn them into agents and hired tools of destruction and disturbances in the hope that this will enable them to achieve their objectives and ambitions. In every country there is a small or large number of such paupers. In Egypt there are only a handful of such paupers who have no loyalty to the country nor any ethics or dignity. In reality, they are not communists but adopt communism as a profession in return for pay; they are mere tools which Moscow manipulates the way it wishes for purposes of sabotage, causing disturbances and spreading lies. The Egyptian people are aware of the reality of these people and, therefore, in Egypt they are always despised and not respected.

Members of this clique, or rather the majority of them, recently left for Baghdad; they left Egypt under the pretext that they are going to work there. The Egyptian authorities are well aware that Baghdad has become the haven of these lackeys, tools of communist trouble. They also know that those agents went to Baghdad in order to work with the gang of rejection, or the gang of slander and insults, against Egypt.

But Egypt has become the country of freedom and democracy and rule of the law. There is no more ban on opinion, or suppression of freedom or restriction on travel. Therefore, the Egyptian authorities left them alone. They gathered in Baghdad like a gang that has no business or purpose except to insult Egypt, its leadership, the present regime and the Egyptian people.

The latest ridiculous innovation of these wandering paupers is that they met in Baghdad and called themselves the federation of Egyptian men of letters or the Egyptian federation of men of letters. In this capacity they issued a statement attacking the peace initiative and Egypt's "capitulatory and isolationist policy," using all the rest of the insults and abuse in the dictionary of the gang of rejections as well as all the lies of the communist propaganda.

It is not strange that Egypt should be insulted and its policy attacked by this handful of communist paupers, for this is the trade from which and for which they live. The Egyptian people and everybody knows this truth. But to issue their statement filled with invective, filth and insults against Egypt and then to allege that they are the federation of Egyptian men of letters is an unforgivable crime not only against Egypt but also against all the world bodies of thinkers and writers. This is because they are committing a crime of falsification against the Egyptian writers and thinkers and against literature and literary thought in general.

In Egypt there is a federation of men of letters headed by litteratuer and world-renown thinker Tawfiq al-Hakim and includes in its membership the top men of letters and writers who are highly appreciated in the world of literature and art.

It is a disgrace for Egypt that those who are illiterate in literature, thought and culture should claim to belong to it in the name of literature; people like Ahmad 'Abbas Salih, Mahmud as-Sa'adni, Amin Iskandar, Tahir 'Abd al-Hakim, Nabil al-Alfi, 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Ghazali, 'Abd al-Hakim Qasim, Mahmud al-'Alim, Fathi Khalil and the rest of the 10 people who issued a statement alleging that they are Egyptian men of letters. In fact, we know none of their contributions to literature.

If they were really Egyptian men of letters, let them tell us how free the freedom of opinion is in Egypt and how free it is in Baghdad; how free the press is in Egypt and how free it is in Baghdad; how many people are under arrest in Baghdad and how many have been killed or assassinated because they have expressed their views. The whole world bears witness that there is freedom and democracy here while no one in Baghdad can open his mouth to say no, for he will be hanged without trial and his family will be persecuted.

And in the midst of this terror the paupers of communism come out to talk about freedom. And they do this in Baghdad. What an irony. They have sold themselves to the one who pays and they are reassured that Egypt will not cancel their passports, nor will bring them back to the country in boxes, or plan their assassination.

You paupers of communism, the whole world knows who you are and how much you are paid.

FOREIGN MINISTER RECEIVES SPANISH AMBASSADOR

NC1215O4Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1354 GMT 12 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 12 March--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil today met with Spanish Ambassador in Cairo Manuel de Igartua Gomez-Alebo. During the meeting, the Spanish ambassador raised the question of the resolution on the Canary Islands which the OAU Ministerial Council adopted during its recent meeting in Tripoli. The ambassador expressed his country's disappointment over the resolution.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil explained to the Spanish ambassador that Egypt is anxious to maintain the friendly Egyptian-Spanish relations as well as the Arab-Spanish relations. He stressed Egypt's appreciation of Spain's strong stands in supporting the Arab right.

The foreign minister pointed out that Egypt had previously expressed its reservations regarding the Canary Islands problem at the previous African summit conference which convened in Libreville last July. He said that Egypt's stand is based on support for the real African interests and on bolstering the genuine liberation movements. At the same time, Egypt is eager to maintain the strong relations of friendship between Egypt and Spain.

MINISTER SPEAKS ON REPLACING DOLLAR IN OIL PRICES

JN141025Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 14 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 March--Tayih 'Abd al-Karim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and oil minister, has said that the successive drops in the dollar value are part of an intentional plan to revive the economies of the United States and the industrialist and capitalist countries allied with it.

'Abd al-Karim explained that this plan is having negative effects on the economic structure of developing countries and on all those producing raw materials, as they have experienced high inflation rates, exported to them by the industrialized countries, amounting to more than 160 per cent since 1974. He added that while the present price of one barrel of oil is $13, its purchasing power in fact does not exceed $5.

Speaking at the meeting last night to open the week of students and development, the oil minister reaffirmed Iraq's support for the replacement of the dollar as the currency for computing oil prices in order to avoid the losses developing countries are suffering as a result of the drop in the dollar value. He added that oil-producing countries have the essential task of protecting their future and their economic systems by programming their production of this exhaustible raw material and preventing a surplus on the international market. Such a surplus is in fact created by industrialized countries to pressure the OPEC price structure and to complicate production operations and development plans of OPEC countries, the minister called for emergency plans to oppose the plans of the International Energy Agency, which is led by the United States.

The oil minister then reviewed the various stages that the production of Iraqi oil has gone through and the colonialist attempts to gain control of this wealth. He also reviewed Iraq's achievements after the 17 July Revolution, which were crowned by the glorious decision of nationalization and the merging of the oil sector with the other economic sectors.

'Abd al-Karim reviewed the investment of oil revenues to implement national development plans, help fraternal Arab countries and support world liberation forces.

ATH-THAWRAH COMMENTS ON DROP IN DOLLAR VALUE

LD131540Y Baghdad ATH-THAWRAH in Arabic 8 Mar 78 p 2 LD

[Hani 'Abbas 'Isa article: "U.S. Dollar and U.S. Role Against OPEC"]

[Text] The value of the U.S. dollar in the world money markets has continued to drop while the U.S. Government has not taken any really effective measures to back it. As this drop continues, voices are being increasingly raised demanding the reconsideration of the OPEC oil revenues calculations and taking into account the damages that the member states have suffered as a result.

A number of OPEC countries have called for convening a meeting of the finance ministers in order to find a substitute currency for the dollar in calculating OPEC's revenues and to consider the adoption of the special withdrawal rights or the "OPEC dollar."

Specialists believe that even if the OPEC countries adopt the special withdrawal rights or the so-called OPEC dollar, losses will continue. This is because the U.S. dollar constitutes 33 percent of the special withdrawal rights and has an even higher percentage of the "OPEC dollar." Therefore, substituting the U.S. dollar will not solve the problem, although it may lessen it.

As the demand in OPEC quarters for dealing with the dollar problem is mounting, we see that some parties that have money surpluses and personal dollar accounts deposited or invested in U.S. and Western European banks are still defending the dollar and believe that its substitution would harm their interests on the grounds that the dollar is the currency of international transaction, the world reserve currency, and that the United States is the world's biggest economic power. Instead of abandoning the dollar and liberating their economy from the domination of international monopolies, these quarters call for supporting the dollar and contributing to the conditions that would lead to its rise once again. In fact, some of these quarters stated that the question of substituting the dollar with any other currency is political as much as it is financial and that they are subject to unbearable pressures--the latest being David Rockefeller's--which prevent them from abandoning the dollar.

This situation is not new and is repeated on every occasion. Not long ago these quarters played a similar role in the recent Caracas conference on the oil prices and aborted the efforts to increase the oil prices at the prompting of and in participation with the United States which played a major role behind the scenes in freezing oil prices.

The problem of the continued drop in the dollar value directly and seriously threatens the revenues of OPEC countries. Every day that passes records increasing losses as the dollar continues to drop. This has made concealing the losses of certain parties impossible and generated a wave of fear among the quarters linked to the imperialist economy. Those defending the U.S. interests and Western capitalism are now defending themselves as these facts come to light. Their allegations and assumptions are no longer serving them and today they are embarassingly silent or advising the United States about the need to check the fall of its dollar.

It has been proved that U.S. imperialism stands behind the drop in the dollar value. By so doing, U.S. imperialism is pursuing an economic policy that brings it benefits at the expense of its allies and those linked to it, despite the fact that from time to time it expresses its readiness to check this deterioration, because a cheap dollar enables the United States to promote its exports at the expense of its competitors in Western Europe and Japan and cuts down its imports.

The idea of abandoning the dollar in calculating oil prices was circulated by economic sources some time ago but no steps to this effect have been taken at OPEC. Even if OPEC should adopt this measure, the problem will be solved radically and the question of rectifying the oil prices will remain the more correct and more just solution to the problem of the drop in the dollar value and the increasing prices of manufactured goods in the capitalist world.

The question that remains to be asked is whether these parties will continue to refuse to correct the oil prices which are being calculated with the "deteriorating" dollar and how will they justify their attitude toward this imperialist plundering.

RCC RATIFIES AGREEMENTS WITH UAE, HUNGARY

JN131320Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 13 March--The RCC has ratified the agreement on tourist, information, educational and cultural cooperation signed between Iraq and the UAE in Abu Dhabi in October 1977.

The RCC also ratified the amendment of the protocol pertaining to the implementation of the agreement on technical and scientific cooperation signed between Iraq and Hungary in Budapest in October 1977.

KING HUSAYN MEETS JORDANIAN PRESS COUNCIL

JN131930Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn this evening met with the new council of the Jordanian Press Association at the Royal Hashemite Court. He explained to them the aspects of the situation in the Arab area. He stressed the need to pool Arab resources to achieve a just and overall solution in the area. He also stressed the need to build Arab force and guarantee the Arab future. His majesty reviewed the position of the Jordanian press. He called on the journalists to take into account their responsibilities and duties toward the homeland. The meeting was attended by Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court His Excellency ash-Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf.

AMMAN RADIO ON BEGIN'S 12 MARCH PRESS CONFERENCE

JN131812Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The Israeli Government is trying to exploit the Tel Aviv operation in the service of its aggressive and expansionist strategy. The broad lines of these political, and perhaps military, objectives, as some well-informed quarters point out, were revealed in Begin's press conference yesterday in which he made falsifications, the objectives and dimensions of which do not need much intelligence to be understood.

Israel has been insisting on totally erroneous interpretations of the UN resolutions, almost depicting the Arab-Israeli conflict as one about a few kilometers in the Sinai Peninsula, totally ignoring the issue of the Palestinian people and land. Such erroneous premises cannot but lead to erroneous results. In the Arab-Israeli conflict, any erroneous premise might lead to wrecking the chances of peace, gravely endangering peace and security in the area and the entire world.

The continuance of Israel's intransigence cannot serve the cause of peace. Hence, the Arab states--and all are equally concerned in the conflict with Israel--should be prepared and ready so as not to be shaken by surprises and catastrophes as a result of their not realizing the nature of the racist-Zionist aggression and the dimensions of the dangers inherent in the Israeli expansionist policy in the Arab arena. Begin's government--which was never in need of a new pretext to cover up for its gamble to choose land and shun peace--finds itself today in circumstances which, in its opinion, might logically prompt it to commit a new act of aggression against the Arab countries, particularly Lebanon, at a time when the world is looking forward to further positive action on the road to peace.

His Majesty King Husayn has several times cautioned against the consequences of the intransigent Israeli positions and against a catastrophe which might go beyond the states in the area to other parts of the world. It seems that Israel is readying for a new venture to change the realities in the Middle East crisis. Will the Arabs realize the gravity of the current situation? Will the Arab leaders check the deteriorating Arab relations to build their intrinsic power and mobilize it for the confrontation of challenges? These two questions were posed by Husayn in his speech a few days ago. They are addressed to our nation in the Arab arena in these critical circumstances which we are facing.

LEADERS DISCUSS REPERCUSSIONS OF RAID IN ISRAEL

NC131245Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] At 1100 today President Ilyas Sarkis held a working meeting with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus.

After the meeting the prime minister stated: The discussion during this meeting centered on the general political situation in the country and the reference by Israeli officials to the alleged Lebanese responsibility for the incident which took place in Israel 2 days ago. As I already stated yesterday, Lebanon does not bear any responsibility for the incident and it has no connection whatsoever with what happened. Lebanon is in contact with various states to contain any possible repercussions or effects on Lebanon.

Asked about the possibility of raising the issue of national detente soon, Prime Minister al-Huss said: The positive atmosphere as far as national detente is concerned still exists and we hope to reach positive results in this respect soon.

IRAQI ENVOY CONVEYS MESSAGE FROM AL-BAKR TO SARKIS

NC131240Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis at 0900 today received Minister Tariq 'Aziz, personal envoy of Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr, in the presence of Iraqi Ambassador in Beirut Muhammad Qasim as-Samawi. The Iraqi minister conveyed an oral message from President al-Bakr to President Sarkis.

After the meeting the Iraqi minister stated: I came to meet with President Sarkis and conveyed to him a message from President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr. I can say that the message affirms Iraq's principled and clear position on the situation in Lebanon. We sincerely and seriously advocate the unity of Lebanon and its people and the establishment of peace and stability. It is not in the interest of any party in Lebanon or of the Lebanese as a whole or of the Arabs for Lebanon to be divided and torn by conflict, whatever the problems being faced by the Lebanese people. They must tackle their problems with a national spirit in order to preserve the stability of this Arab country. We stress the need for strengthening the legal authorities in Lebanon, which represent all the Lebanese and are concerned about the interests of all the Lebanese. In this way it is possible for Lebanon to recover from the problems and wounds with which it has been afflicted and to forge its way toward greater unity and constructive work for the benefit of its people and all the Arabs.

What has happened in Lebanon represents a big loss to the Lebanese and to the Arabs and we must all take care to prevent such a loss from being repeated. Asked whether President Sarkis had replied to President al-Bakr, he said: Yes, President Sarkis asked me to convey his greetings to President al-Bakr and to return the sentiments expressed by Al-Bakr and the command members in Iraq.

SARKIS RECEIVES SYRIAN INFORMATION MINISTER

NC140827Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] About 1 hour ago President Sarkis received Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar. They discussed the situation in Lebanon and issues of mutual interest.

CUBAN DELEGATION ARRIVES TO DISCUSS SUMMIT

FL102250Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2220 GMT 10 Mar 78 FL

[Text] A Cuban delegation, which is charged with the preparations for the sixth nonalined summit conference, has arrived in Lebanon to gather information and coordinate efforts for the 1979 meeting. Orlando Flores Ibarra, director of the Nonalined Special Conferences Department of the Foreign Ministry, was received in Beirut by high officials of the Lebanese Foreign Ministry, with whom he held fruitful talks. He also met with leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organization in his capacity as member of the Movement Coordination Bureau. Flores Ibarra held talks with (Abu Hatan), (Salud Kabunin), chief of the PLO Political Department and its representative in the coordination bureau.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS TENSE SITUATION IN SOUTH

NC140839Y Voice of Lebanon [Cladestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0815 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Reports from the south indicate that calm fraught with caution and anxiety prevails in the region and that heavy and concentrated reinforcements have appeared in certain areas, especially around the port of Tyre. Jeeps can be seen patrolling some roads in readiness for any possible Israeli operation in retaliation for the fedayeen action on Saturday.

INA Report

JN131217Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 13 March--The Zionist enemy today is continuing to mass its troops, supported with vehicles, along the southern Lebanese border for the third day running. Enemy patrols entered the coastal township of An-Naqurah and carried out combing operations last night and this morning.

The INA correspondent in the south has stated that the enemy boats have been coming close to the southern coast since the day before yesterday. Enemy vehicles have been seen moving along the border line.

The correspondent pointed out that a state of alert prevails in the southern areas as precaution for any revenge the enemy might carry out following the Kamal 'Udwan operation inside occupied Palestine 2 days ago. The correspondent said that the camps have been almost evacuated and the schools have been closed. The wave of evacuation continues from the southern villages to areas in the interior.

AL-ASAD PASSES AMNESTY LAW REDUCING PRISON SENTENCES

JN131050Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--On the occasion of his second presidential term, President Hafiz al-Asad today issued Law No 26 on amnesty, following the approval of this law by the People's Assembly. In accordance with this law, President Hafiz al-Asad granted amnesty, according to the following criteria:

The law grants amnesty to those suffering from incurable diseases as well as to those who are 70 years old when this law comes into force. The law reduces by half all criminal sentences already passed or in the process of being passed. The law changes the penalties of hard labor for life and detention for life to temporary hard labor and temporary detention for a period of 15 years.

Excluded from this law are crimes against state security, crimes pertaining to obligations of persons in office, public confidence, public ethics, family ethics, perjury and false reports and crimes against properties stipulated in the Military Penal Code. Also excluded are crimes punishable under the Economic Penal Code and narcotic offenses. Crimes violating customs regulations are also excluded from this law.

SOVIET OFFICIAL SKACHKOV ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS

JN131248Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations of the USSR Council of Ministers and head of the Soviet side to the Permanent Syrian-Soviet Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation, arrived in Damascus this morning to head the Soviet side at the meetings of the Joint Permanent Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation between the two countries scheduled to begin this evening.

While in Syria, Skachkov will represent the Soviet Government at the celebrations which will be held on 16 March in Ath-Thawrah town on the occasion of the completion of the work on the Euphrates Dam and the powerstation.

In a statement at the airport, Skachkov expressed his thanks at being invited to participate in the celebrations on the occasion of putting into operation the second (?stage) of the powerstation at the Euphrates Dam. He expressed the hope that this will strengthen technical and economic cooperation between the two friendly countries in the future and will further develop the relations of friendship between the Syrian and Soviet peoples.

Khulayfawi Receives Skachkov

JN132138Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 13 Mar 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Prime Minister Maj Gen 'Abd ar-Rahman Khulayfawi at 2000 today received Skachkov, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations of the USSR Council of Ministers, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Planning Affairs Dr George Huraniyah and Soviet ambassador in Damascus Yuriy Chernyakov.

During the meeting they exchanged views on relations of economic cooperation between Syria and the USSR and aspects of cooperation in light of the joint statement issued on President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union and within the framework of the Joint Permanent Arab-Soviet Committee.

ALGERIA

FRANCE REPORTEDLY WILLING TO OPEN TALKS ON RELATIONS

LD102024Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 10 Mar 78 LD

[Text] The French minister of foreign affairs yesterday received the Algerian ambassador in order to inform him that the French Government is willing to open discussions with the Algerian Government on the topic of relations between the two countries. The French Foreign Ministry stated that an analogous procedure was carried out in Algiers on the same day by the French ambassador.

The French Foreign Ministry stressed that the objective of the French proposals is to organize the development of Franco-Algerian relations while scrupulously respecting the sovereignty of each side, assuring the safety of persons and property on the basis of equality, assuring the security of the nationals of each party on the national territory of the other and favoring the harmonious development and bilateral exchanges on the basis of nondiscrimination and in the mutual interests of the two states.

LIBYA

TRIPOLI COMMENTARY CONDEMNS ISRAELI 'TERRORISM'

LD131452Y Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] There are thousands of proofs of the terroristic and criminal character of Zionism: The occupation of Palestine, the homelessness of its people, and the establishment of a Zionist entity on the debris of the social and political entity of the Palestinian Arab people is the height of terrorism, aggression and oppression, equalled only by the Zionists' claim that Palestine was only a land without a people and was taken over by a people without a land. Palestine was never a land without people and the Zionists are no people; even if we assume they are a people, Palestine is not the haven of this so-called people gathered by Zionism from all parts of the world and whose children, boys or girls, and men and women, were turned by Zionism into racist fighters committing acts of terrorism and murder against the Arab people.

Our people have the right to fight the Zionists as a whole because they are all fighters and aggressors. There is no difference between their soldier at the front and the other which occupies an Arab house and Arab farm. At times of danger all the Zionists in the occupied territory can be alerted by means of signals broadcast over the enemy radio and all become fighters committing massacres and carnage against Arab citizens and the Arab territories.

Hence the bold fedayeen operation which took place recently at Tel Aviv is in no way a military operation against civilians but a fedayeen military action against Zionist soldiers occupying Arab territory and the homes of the Arabs who had been driven from their homeland. It is the right of the Palestine Arab people who refuse to submit to faits accomplis to resort to all ways and means to force the enemy to leave their territory. This is no act of terrorism at all, even if the United States appointed its President to brag about human rights and to claim to be resisting terrorism.

If the United States is serious and true in its claims, then let it come even a little closer to the truth and let it call things by their names.

If it were to do so, then it will be found who is the terrorist to be resisted by the entire world community: Is he the Arab who is fighting to return to his home, farm and homeland, or is he that Zionist usurper who seized the home, farm and homeland of the Palestinians?

The Palestinian Arab people supported by the forces of Arab revolution, the forces of confrontation and steadfastness do not care about being called terrorists by the terrorists, or even worse names. The Arab people have taken a stand from which they will never retreat: to deepen their fighting practices for the retrieval of their land. They have decided that confrontation will not mean standing in the trenches to check aggression but that confrontation will mean fighting, attacks and a bold war against the enemy positions in the depth of the occupied territory. In other words, the rejection of the Zionist-imperialist reactionary plot has entered the stage of combat rejection in reply to the Zionist-imperialist denial of the existence of the Palestinian Arab people and in reply to the desperate capitulatory plots being implemented by the apostate Egyptian regime, and to the abominable Zionist crimes which the entire world community had condemned time and again.

The Zionists will have to learn that the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people is not only the PLO but also the fighting gun as well. The guns do not beg or ask for mercy. The Zionists are the ones to start aggression, carnage and terrorism. Our nation's reply is not an aggression nor an act of terrorism. We do not fight the Zionists over their lands even in Tel Aviv, but we fight them over our land in Tel Aviv, Haifa and Nazareth, the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank. The Palestinian Arab gun is loaded. The future undoubtedly holds a great deal of the escalation of the armed struggle until liberation is achieved by true means and methods.

ISRAELI CALL TO BREAK WITH PLO REJECTED

LD131018Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 13 March--The JANA political editor has commented on the Zionist enemy's call on world countries with relations with the PLO to sever these relations following the recent fedayeen operations inside occupied Palestine.

The editor writes: The Israelis have asked countries with relations with the PLO to sever these relations following the recent fedayeen operations in the occupied Arab territories on the pretext that these operations were abominable crimes committed against civilians. We must definitely accept the logic of severing relations with aggressors who have no respect for human life and security, the editor adds. But we have the right to ask: What can we call the Zionists who come from all corners of the world to usurp the land of Palestine and change even its historical name, make its Palestinian people homeless, chase them even in their tents and shelters and attack them without mercy or pity? What can we call terrorist Begin, the commander of the Dayr Yasin carnage? And how can we describe the mass killings carried out by Israeli aircraft against the students of Bahr al-Baqar and the workers of Abu Za 'Bal factory?

What is terrorism? Is man's fight for the retrieval of his land, home and farm terrorism? Is the Palestinian resistance fight against the Nazi-type invasion terrorism? Was the Americans' fight against British colonialism an act of terrorism? Was the Vietnamese's defense of their lands an act of terrorism? Were not the Americans the terrorists? Was the British people's fight against Nazism an act of terrorism, or were the Nazis the real terrorists?

These questions, the editor writes, must be answered by world conscience, particularly those deceived by the pro-imperialist and pro-Zionist information media which depict real terrorism as the victim and the real victim as terrorism. Neither the Palestinians nor the Arab national should be held responsible or asked to pay the price for the suffering of the European Jews.

The world should heed the call of the Israelis to sever relations with the terrorists who commit aggressions against the innocent. The African Continent did precisely that when it realized the racist, imperialist and terrorist nature of the Zionist entity and thus severed relations with it.

The peoples of the civilized world are called upon to follow suit and to sever relations with the racist-Zionist regime, whose records abound with crime, terrorism, aggressions and innumerous condemnations by the United Nations and which has been branded officially by the world as racist.

In conclusion, the political editor writes: A word to the Eastern Jews who came from Palestine and other parts of the Arab homeland: It is time you realized that the masters that came from Europe and the United States to colonize you and to create the only country in the world that oppresses the Jews in modern times will not bring you peace, security or stability. By their terrorist, racist and expansionist policy they will only bring destruction and death to you. Stand up in the face of the oppressors and debunk the myth of the foreign Zionists' supremacy. Place your hands in the hands of your cousins, the peoples of the area, and together build this area and enjoy its wealth with them, as you did for centuries until the Zionist racists and terrorists arrived.

AL-QADHDHAFI REPORTEDLY TO VISIT JORDAN SOON

NC1309007 Doha QNA in Arabic 0811 GMT 13 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 13 March--The Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM today carries a dispatch from Amman reporting that Libyan Chairman Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will visit Jordan soon as part of a tour to several states in the area.

The paper says that the Jordanian Government has received assurances indicating that the Libyan Government will resume Libyan financial aid to Jordan. The paper says that a military training team composed of 16 officers is currently in Libya and that the Libyan Government has requested that this team be increased to 200 officers.

HUNGARIAN DEPUTY MINISTER ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD1310057 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, 13 March--Hungarian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vancel Hazi arrived in Tripoli yesterday noon on a few days' visit to the Jamahiriyah. He was welcomed by the assistant under secretary for political affairs and a representative of the European Desk at the Foreign Secretariat.

Talks Begin

LD1313557 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Libyan Arab-Hungarian talks began at the Foreign Secretariat building this morning. The Libyan side was headed by the assistant under secretary for political affairs and the Hungarian side by Dr Vancel Hazi, deputy Hungarian foreign minister who is now on a visit to the Jamahiriyah.

JANA reports that the discussions covered cooperation between the two countries and means to bolster them. Discussions also covered the implementation of agreements concluded between the two countries in economic, social and cultural fields.

JALLUD RECEIVES CUBAN COOPERATION MINISTER

LD132029Y Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Staff Maj 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud received at his office at people's palace at noon today the Cuban cooperation minister who is currently visiting the Jamahiriyah. They discussed aspects of mutual cooperation between the two countries.

MOROCCO

USSR-MOROCCO COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER OSMAN VISIT

For a Moscow Arabic account of the text of the communique issued on 13 March on the visit of Moroccan Prime Minister Ahmed Osman to the USSR, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 14 March Soviet Union DAILY REPORT.

SUDAN

NUMAYRI'S ADDRESS TO ASSEMBLY REPORTED

LD131604Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD/EA

[Excerpt] Leader-president Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has stressed that the slogan of the May revolution, the slogan of national unity, was a preliminary slogan, paving the way for the revolution's great slogan--the slogan of building the Sudanese nation. In the important address delivered to the inaugural session of the Third People's Assembly this morning he said that this paving of the way has not taken the shape of preaching about the aim but constant achievement along the path towards its fulfillment.

The president declared that the previous phase has witnessed planning and implementation efforts in various spheres and places. He said: As for the great aim--that of building a modern Sudanese nation--we have taken successive strides toward it and have redoubled our efforts to fulfill it.

His excellency reviewed some of the achievements made within this framework; notably, the decision to grant the south regional autonomy; the launching of the educational revolution; the review of provincial boundaries; the opening up of the countryside; the announcement of the slogan of development; the experiment of local peoples government; political cohesion represented by the single political organization; and special efforts to bring about unity, harmony and the return of emigres to participate in fulfilling the aim of building the Sudanese nation.

Assembly Proceedings

LD131148 [Editorial Report LD] Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic at 0705 GMT on 13 March carries a live relay of the session of the Third National Assembly in Khartoum. The session opens with the assembly first electing Abu al-Qasim Hashim as speaker; he takes the oath of office before moving to his seat and making a short speech of thanks. He then reads Republican Decree No 129 of 1978, signed by the president, appointing Badr ad-Din Muhammad Ahmad Sulayman as leader of the People's Assembly effective immediately.

The assembly elects Muzammil Sulayman Ghandur and (Otu Andank) as deputy speakers and Mahdi Mustafa al-Hadi as supervisor of the People's Assembly.

An unidentified speaker is heard to read 36 provisional orders ratifying various agreements with international organizations and foreign governments made while the assembly was recessed. The same speaker adjourns the session until 0900 GMT to hear President Numayri's address.

The live relay ends at 0733 GMT, after which the radio fades out from 0754 GMT until 0940 GMT when it becomes audible again and Numayri is heard to be already speaking.

He is heard to speak about the role of the People's Assembly in the era of nation building. He says that the more the Sudan achieves the more it is liable to become the target of various threats to its resources. This means continued efforts on the part of Sudan to promote good relations with African and Arab countries and friends within the international community. He goes on to speak of the Sudan's support for peace and justice and for the right of all peoples to self-determination. Numayri says all this means attention to defense, which Sudan is taking steps to improve.

The speech ends at 1006 GMT.

TUNISIA

NOUIRA REPORTS ON CONTACTS WITH ICFTU OFFICIAL

LD1012417 Tunis L'ACTION in French 22 Feb 78 pp 1, 2 LD

[Unattributed report on Prime Minister Hedi Nouira 21 February interview granted to Arab journalists: "Tunisia Is Perfectly Prepared To Cooperate With the ICFTU"]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Hedi Nouira granted an interview at the government palace in the Kasbah yesterday morning to a group of journalists representing several Arab newspapers.

During this interview the prime minister answered several questions mainly concerned with the recent events in Tunisia, the government's economic and social policy, and relations between Arab countries.

Replying to a question about the substance of the talks which he had yesterday morning with Mr Otto Kersten, secretary general of the ICFTU, Mr Hedi Nouira confirmed that Tunisia is perfectly willing to cooperate with the ICFTU.

Mr Hedi Nouira pointed out that Mr Kersten's present visit to Tunisia is the third in less than a year. Indeed, the prime minister recalled, the ICFTU secretary general came to Tunisia in January 1977 and, on learning about the social contract concluded between the social partners, expressed the view that this contract was an example worth following for developing countries and even for some industrialized countries. He showed his admiration for the concept of the social contract and for the way in which it was put into operation.

Mr Hedi Nouira added:

As for Otto Kersten's second visit, that took place the day before the general strike was announced.

On that occasion he came to see me in my office in an attempt to mediate between the two sides, stressing in particular the need to continue the dialog between the government and the trade union federation. Although accepting this principle, I made it a condition that the general strike should be called off. It was indeed unacceptable to continue the dialog under threats or constraints. At a second interview Mr Otto Kersten informed me that Mr Habib Achour has refused to call off the general strike on the pretext that he could no longer back down without losing face. I then replied that, although standing by the principle of dialog, the government could not, however, yield to pressure.

Mr Hedi Nouira continued:

"Mr Otto Kersten recently made a third visit to Tunisia. I received him yesterday morning in my office, where he had come to request permission to see Mr Habib Achour on humanitarian grounds, arguing that some sources report that the state of health of the former Tunisian General Federation of Labor secretary general is deteriorating. I then asked my interlocutor to appoint one or more doctors to examine Mr Habib Achour and to satisfy themselves at first hand that this information is incorrect. I further informed him that the judicial authorities alone have the power to authorize a visit to Mr Habib Achour and that it is therefore up to him to submit his request to the examining magistrate dealing with the case."

The interview took place in the presence of Secretary of State for Information in the prime minister's office Mr Mustafa Masmoudi.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO CLAIMS KILLING OF 8 MOROCCAN SOLDIERS

LD131347Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] The POLISARIO has issued a statement reporting that on 8 March Saharan forces ambushed Moroccan soldiers about 50 km from Al-Farsiyah in the Western Sahara. Eight Moroccan soldiers were killed, ten were injured, four vehicles were destroyed and military equipment was seized.

DEFENSE MINISTRY REPORTS MOROCCAN LOSSES IN FEBRUARY

LD132241Y Algiers Domestic Service in French 2100 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Summary] A communique released by the Ministry of Defense of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic says that during the month of February 367 Moroccan soldiers were put out of action in operations in the Sahara; one Moroccan airplane, one helicopter and 80 military vehicles were destroyed.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADORS TO LIBYA--The assistant under secretary for technical affairs at the Foreign Secretariat this morning received copies of the credentials of Brother Muhammad as-Sanusi, the new Chadian ambassador to Libya, and of Vladimiri Dimitrov, the new Bulgarian ambassador to Libya. [Text] [Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD]

BEGIN REPORTEDLY TO LEAVE FOR U.S. ON 19 MARCH

TA1309127 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Aryo Zimmuqi]

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin will leave this Sunday for Washington, following the postponement of his visit planned for the beginning of this week because of the terrorist attack on the coastal road.

Begin will leave for the United States accompanied by the foreign minister and possibly the defense minister. President Carter, who showed great understanding of the request for a postponement, has authorized Begin's visit plan in exactly the format of the visit that was postponed.

Weizman To Stay Home

TA1400147 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Mar 78 p 2 TA

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will leave this coming Sunday for the United States and will return at the end of the week.

Minister of Defense 'Ezer Weizman will not accompany the prime minister and the foreign minister. It has been explained that Mr Weizman has in fact completed his series of talks in Washington and so the prime minister saw no point in inviting him to come along for his talks with Carter.

The opinion has also been expressed that, under the security circumstances following bloody Saturday, it would be better for the defense minister to be here.

CEAUSESCU REPORTEDLY WILL INVITE DAYAN FOR TALKS

TA1409117 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Dani Rubinstein]

[Text] The Government of Romania will invite Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan for a visit which will, as far as can be seen, come about after the political talks in Washington. President Ceausescu's invitation comes against the background of the deadlock created in the talks between Israel and Egypt.

The matter of Dayan's expected visit to Romania was learned last night from a reliable source in Jerusalem. The president of Romania, Nicolae Ceausescu, is considered to be one of the prime movers in As-Sadat's initiative and his dramatic visit to Jerusalem.

A delegation of MAPAM leaders and the head of the Labor Party, MK Shim'on Peres, recently visited Bucharest. It appears that Bucharest wants to advise Israel to bring the negotiations for peace with Egypt to a successful conclusion after the Romanian involvement in the opening of the negotiations. Romania regards itself involved with this issue and committed to continue to act, in spite of the fact that the Soviet Union and the other East European countries have criticized As-Sadat. (Yugoslavia has also joined this criticism.)

Bucharest will try to use its influence on the Cabinet of Israel and, at this stage, will, as stated, invite Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan.

SOURCES COMMENT ON RECENT AS-SADAT LETTER TO BEGIN

TA132040Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[Text] A source in the Prime Minister's Office told our political correspondent today that there are no indications in the Egyptian president's latest letter to Israel's prime minister that any change has occurred in Egypt's basic positions. The letter was handed to Mr Begin on Saturday evening.

The source added that there was no hint in the letter of an Egyptian readiness to renew the direct contact between the two countries, neither on a personal level--that is to say, a further Begin-As-Sadat meeting--nor on the level or resuming the discussions of the Military and Political committees.

The circles say that there is actually no prospect for a move in the existing situation, and in any case, not before the prime minister's return from his meeting with President Carter.

TERRORIST ACTION STIMULATES COMMENT, REACTION, ACTIVITY

Police Commander's Report

TA131552Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Two terrorists of the group which perpetrated the slaughter on the coastal highway on 11 March drowned off Ma'agan Mikha'el before their accomplices reached shore. This was revealed today at a press conference held by the commissioner of police. He also said that of the 11 terrorists who reached the shore only one was a woman, and she was killed in the battle near the country club.

The security forces are holding two terrorists, one of whom is wounded.

Referring to the beginning of the terrorists operation the commissioner said that the terrorists had boarded the mothership which brought them to Israeli shores a week ago. They launched their rubber boats on Thursday night, 9 March.

Commissioner Tavori said that the police had discharged their duties with steadfastness and bravery in the given circumstances. He made special mention of the courage demonstrated by a number of policemen who had taken part in the action.

Further on Report

TA131737Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The Israeli police have formed a special team to investigate the minutest details of the events concerning the terrorist attack on Saturday. The team is also checking to see if there are any people still missing from among the passengers in the bus and passengers in private cars who were in the area during the attack. Our correspondent Mikha'el Huller has learned that at this stage the police know of one missing child. The bodies of the terrorist have been identified beyond any doubt by, among other things, Fatah accessories found on their bodies, such as bracelets.

Police Commissioner Hayyim Tavori believes the police should be equipped with sophisticated communications systems and with improved means of transportation, such as helicopters, attached to the special antiterrorist unit. Similarly, the number of antiterrorist units should be increased.

The commissioner says there is complete coordination between the police forces and the IDF in the area of internal security, and that was also the case during the latest incident. He spoke at a press conference.

U.S. Missiles Found

TA131858Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[Excerpt] Police Commissioner Hayyim Tavori revealed today that in the taxi that the terrorists abandoned before seizing the bus, numerous weapons were found, including LAW missiles. These are U.S.-made antitank missiles.

Casualties Reported

TA132029Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The crop of the terrorist slaughter last Saturday is 32 killed and 82 injured. Up to this time the identification of the bodies has not yet been completed. Personnel from the military rabbinate and pathlogists are having difficulty identifying the bodies due to the explosion and fire that gutted the bus. The rabbinate and the pathological institute will do all in their power to identify the victims, but if in the end it becomes clear that identification is impossible, the victims will be laid to rest in a common grave.

It is still not clear what happened to two children who were in the bus when it was attacked by the terrorists. Moti Zayit, 9 and 1/2 years old, of Haifa, was, according to one version, seen escaping from the bus in the vicinity of Ma'agan Mikha'el shortly before the terrorists seized it. According to this version, reported by one passenger, it is assumed that Moti suffered from shock and is now hiding somewhere. Moti is a thin child, was wearing a red blouse and jeans. Ravital Aharonowitz, 14 years old, has not been identified [among the bodies] so far and it is not yet clear whether she was killed. Asked at a press conference about the fate of the children, the police commissioner said: The identification of the bodies is continuing.

Protest to UN Secretary General

TA140708Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Israel has protested to the UN secretary general about Saturday's terrorist outrage and reminded Secretary General Waldheim that the United Nations once received terrorist leader Yasir 'Arafat enthusiastically. The Israeli UN mission sent a three-page letter to Waldheim.

Knesset Condemnation Unanimous

TA131623Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[Text] An hour ago the Knesset unanimously condemned Saturday's terrorist attack. A motion to end the session demanded that the terrorist organization be condemned throughout the world, expressed condolences to the bereaved families and wished a speedy recovery to the injured. The motion was made by 'Uzzi Bar'am from the Alinement.

Hadash's [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] motion was rejected by a large majority. The prime minister said that the days of immunity for killers of Jews are over. We shall defend our citizens and chop off the arm of evil. The bloody events of the day before yesterday will be investigated by a military and civilian committee.

In faction statements almost all the speakers called for a general war against the PLO. Some called upon the government not to forsake the peace efforts.

MK Charlie Biton of Hadash was forced from the podium by Knesset ushers. Instead of presenting a motion on the attack, he wanted to deliver another speech. He stubbornly refused to obey the speaker's orders and was then forced down by the ushers.

Begin Addresses Knesset

TA131642Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The prime minister said that we would cut off the hand of the assassins. He said Israel knew of dozens of courses members of the murder organizations are taking in East European countries. Mr Begin also noted that no word of condolences had reached Israel from Egypt in the wake of the bloody incident. [begin recording]

[Begin] All those murdered were innocent people who did no wrong to anyone. They were felled on the highway by murderers who had aimed at their heart, the Jewish heart. Surely, after such a bloody slaughter, it is fitting that an investigation take place. This will be done by both a military committee and a civilian committee.

Mr Speaker, after this bloody deed--one of the most horrible atrocities of our day--it is our duty to take stock. On so doing, we shall see a terrible and inhuman sight: men, women and children dead in an attack by evildoers. There is no word of sorrow, no participation in the sorrow of the bereaved families; the contrary is true: voices of joy and exhiliration are reaching us. Boasts and bragging. We are facing a phenomenon of a lack of God's image in human beings. In these days, sounds of cruel bestiality are heard while the bodies of our dead are prostrate before us.

Only 3 days ago the leader of murderers was in Moscow. He was received with honors. The ruler of the Soviet Union had a talk with him, they held negotiations. Why did they confer and what did they talk about? To the best of our knowledge, dozens of training courses for Fatah members and for those who are called the PLO have recently taken place in the Soviet Union and in other communist East European countries. Courses in which Soviet experts taught the use of weapons, how to attack. There are also democratic countries in Europe and in other parts of the world in which offices of that murder organization exist.

We call on the democratic countries, if we cannot reach the heart of the totalitarian countries, to put an end to this shameful situation. How can they continue to permit the existence of offices in which such murderous schemes are being plotted?

We shall do what behooves us. Note should be taken: Those who shed the blood of innocents will not escape unscathed. We shall defend our citizens, our women and children. We shall cut off the arm of evil. We shall never under any circumstance allow the hand of an evildoer to be raised against the head of a Jewish child or a Jewish woman. [end recording]

Allon Addresses Knesset

TA131720Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Following the prime minister's statement in the Knesset, representatives of each Knesset faction were given the floor for 10 minutes. Knesset Member Yig'al Allon made a statement on behalf of the Alinement. [Begin recording]

[Allon]...that we cannot carry on as usual. This is not the proper forum to go into details about what, in our view, should be done, when and how. It is clear, however, that we won't be ourselves if we take in stride this criminal deed, given its scope and its moral nature, if we don't adopt defensive measures in order to break its power as well as we possibly can. No small effort is necessary so that we avoid getting ensnared in their tactics, in order not to play into their hands and bring about, God forbid, a stalemate in the political momentum.

Mr Speaker, an investigation is, indeed, necessary. Perhaps also a profound examination, and I do not want to elaborate while our dead are still prostrate in front of us. Many of us are seriously wondering how this slaughter was possible by day in the heart of the country, murder and mayhem which lasted for long hours; people who were seaborne a long time since they had been dispatched from their mothership, more than 48 hours without being discovered.

It is my public duty and responsibility to support every examination and investigation to be initiated, especially so that we are able to learn our lesson, because we are in the midst of a cruel war which is not choosey about its methods, and surprise is the basis for its operations. [end recording]

Trial Evidence Gathered

TA140709Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Mar 78 TA

[Text] A special police investigating team expects to finish its work tonight on gathering material needed to bring the two captured terrorists to trial. The team has interviewed more than 100 witnesses.

Military Investigation Team

TA131958Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Maj Gen Yona Efrat will head the military team which will investigate the events of Saturday. Also on the team will be a high-ranking air force officer and a high-ranking navy officer. The team will examine the maritime defense system and the activity of the IDF forces the day before yesterday, 11 March. The team will submit its report to the chief of staff by 20 March.

Our correspondent Roni Dani'el says that the IDF has suggested to the police that they be represented on the team. However, the police have decided to set up a separate investigating team.

Reliable sources in the IDF said today that the distribution of responsibility between the armed forces and the police in handling problems such as the terrorist act on the coastal road is sound. However, the police must be equipped with mobile means, such as helicopters and fast-moving vehicles, in order to make their activities more efficient.

Lebanese Commander's Condolences

TA140656Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 14 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The commander of the Christian forces in southern Lebanon, Sa'id Haddad, has said the United States is pressuring Israel not to launch a retaliatory raid against terrorist bases in Lebanon. This came in a message of condolence to Prime Minister Begin. Major Haddad also wrote: We feel as if the terrorist attack had been made against us. It proves that the terrorists' aim is to murder anyone who is not a Moslem Arab.

Lebanese Express Sorrow

TA130707Y Jerusalem POST in English 13 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[Text] Metulla--Residents of the southern Lebanese enclaves who visited the "good fence" here yesterday reacted with shock to news of the terrorist attack on Saturday afternoon, and many of them expressed deep sorrow and asked that their condolences be conveyed to the bereaved families.

The commander of the southern Lebanese forces, Major Sa'd Haddad, said he had sent a letter of condolences to the Israel Government. But many leaders said that the attack itself did not come as a surprise to them. They said they could not understand how Israel could tolerate a large terrorist presence close to its border--a presence which has lately been reinforced, they added.

U.S.: No Proof Against PLO

TA132023Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[Text] The State Department's spokesman in Washington has refused to condemn the PLO. The spokesman claimed that he does not have proof that that organization is responsible for the massacre on Saturday. The spokesman, Hodding Carter, said that the United States will not let the terrorist act put a stop to the peace process in the Middle East.

He refused to say if Washington has tried to persuade Israel not to react to the attack.

U.S. Condemns Fatah

TA140615Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Mar 78 TA

[Text] In Washington yesterday the State Department issued a new statement saying that the U.S. Government firmly condemns the Fatah, since this organization admitted that it is responsible for the terrorist attack on the coastal highway. The statement says Washington sees no room for doubting the announcement.

A few hours earlier the State Department spokesman had condemned the terrorist attack but refused to condemn the PLO. Spokesman Hodding Carter said he had no proof that the PLO is responsible for the massacre. In the wake of this announcement, Israel's ambassador in Washington, Simcha Dinitz, called Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton demanding that the State Department correct its announcement. Later, Ambassador Dinitz conferred with Atherton demanding, in the name of the Israeli Government, that he order the closure of the PLO office in New York. Israel's demand is based on the fact that the PLO, the main component of Fatah, admitted that it is responsible for the murder. The fact that the U.S. Government said that this is an act of sinful murder suffices to order the closure of the representation of the organization. The PLO has an office in New York which serves as its observer in the UN General Assembly.

Egyptian Silence Disturbing

TA131704Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] Our political correspondent remarks that in Jerusalem the prime minister's speech is being understood as expressing dissatisfaction over the fact that Egypt has failed to express condolences to Israel.

The Foreign Ministry scrutinized the Egyptian press today and not a single word of condolences could be found. The dissatisfaction in Jerusalem comes after the prime minister had publicly expressed condolences to President as-Sadat and to the Egyptian nation following the assassination of As-Siba'i in Cyprus.

Police Want More Althority

TA131649Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Senior officers in the border police told our correspondent that in their opinion the events of the day before yesterday have proved that the police with its divided organizational structure, is not capable of coping with such circumstances, and that the border police should be given the responsibilty for internal security.

They emphasized that the commanders of the special unit for combating terrorists had been ready to move out immediately in vehicles, and block the terrorists' way, but that the police general headquarters demanded that the unit be flown by helicopter to Ma'agan Mika'el. By the time the helicopter got there precious time had been wasted, and the unit did not make contact with the terrorists.

The officers assessed, however, that the operation in the vicinity of the country club had been successful, considering the circumstances.

Sharon Criticizes Police, IDF

TA1320047Y Jerusalem Domesitc Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Mar 78 TA

[Text] Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon a short while ago criticzed the conduct of the security forces in the operation to rescue the hostages and seize the terrorists. The agriculture minister was critical of the decision by Commissioner Tiomkin, commander of the Tel Aviv Police District, to stop the bus at the country club junction.

Mr Sharon has also asked a number of question which imply that he is criticizing the conduct of IDF forces on Saturday.

East Jerusalem Arabs Silent

TA131251Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Mar 78 p 6 TA

[By Yosef Zuri'el]

[Excerpts] The massacre outside Tel Aviv was described in full in the Arab press published in East Jerusalem, but the editors like the mayors and public figures, have refrained from condeming the action.

In Bethlehem a fight broke out between those who thought that the massacre was harmful to the Arabs of the West Bank and those who praised the action. Those comdemning the action are Christians and those praising it Moslem.

The editors of AL-QUDS, ASH-SHA'B and AL-FAJR reported in full on the massacre in the main columns, but refrained from taking a position. One of the editors said: "There is a choice between condemning the action and priasing it and for obvious reasons I am not able to express a view either way."

Mayors and public figures took a similar line; they were silent. Those asked to express their views said that they could not refer to the massacre because they had no link with those planning or putting into operation such acts.

Galilee Arabs React

TA131252Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Mar 78 p 6 TA

[By Me'ir Hare'uveni]

[Text] Heads of local Arab councils in Galilee, as well as Arab and Druze public figures yesterday reacted with expressions of anger and horror to the murderous action of the terrorists on the Haifa-Tel Aviv road. These expressions were reported verbally to members of the Israeli administration, unlike similar cases in the past, when organizations and the leadershipsoof various committees published statements condemning terrorist actions.

At least in one case there was a different expression in the Israeli Arab sector. Youths belonging to the extremist organization "Sons of the Village" in the Umm El Fahm village in the triangle burst into applause when they heard from the radio of the terrorist attack. The heads of this organization, which also has ranches in various western Galilee villages, have recently come out with the statement that they regard the PLO as the only body representing the Palestinian nation.

Arab Demonstration of Joy

TA131253Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 13 Mar 78 p 6 TA

[Text] It is reported from the Neve-Zuf (An-Nabi Zilah in Samaria) foothold that yesterday morning villagers from the region passed along the road opposite the foothold, singing and calling out in joy. This was a demonstration of joy, aimed at the Jewish settlement, over the murderous action carried out on the coastal road on Saturday.

Continued Alert in North

TA140918Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 14 Mar 78 p 1 TA

[By Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] There was tension and a state of alert yesterday in the confrontation line settlements along the northern border. A state of alert continues in the urban settlements and kibbutzim along the Lebanese border, but with this the inhabitants are trying to carry on as normal.

Security forces are in constant attack with the inhabitants so as to foil any possible terrorist attempt at a strike.

In the Lebanese enclave north of Metulla, school has been suspended by order of the Christian commander in southern Lebanon, Maj Sa'ad Haddad.

The inhabitants of the enclave are spending their nights in the shelters. The Christian political adviser in southern Lebanon, Francis Rizq, told the DAVAR correspondent yesterday that there is an expectant atmosphere in the Christian enclave of southern Lebanon regarding a large-scale Israeli military action in Lebanon which would indirectly help the security of the inhabitants of southern Lebanon.

Terrorist Action Analyzed

TA130940Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Mar 78 p 7 TA

[Yehoshu'a Tadmor commentary: "The Objective: To Torpedo the Peace Process"]

[Text] As these lines are being written, the search for the terrorists who escaped continues and it is still too soon to reach conclusions or to sum up, but it is possible to try and answer several questions.

First and foremost, what were the reasons for the attack and what were its objectives? There is no doubt that the main goal of the attack was political. The Fatah leadership hurried to announce its responsibility for initiating the criminal attack. When the reference is to Fatah, this means that standing behind the attack this time are Yasir 'Arafat and the other PLO leaders, that is, the official establishment of the terrorist organizations which had recently become "moderate" in the eyes of dozens of governments in the world. Their political objective is clear: to sabotage the political talks and the political process ripening between Israel and Egypt, at a stage when all efforts are focused on formulating a framework for the incorpration of Jordan into the debates.

The timing of the action--the eve of Prime Minister Menahem Begin's departure for talks with President Carter--also proves its planner's objectives. The PLO heads tried, through this bloody message, to declare to the world that there will be no agreement and there will be no peace if the PLO is not brought into the debates and if no Palestinian state, headed by the PLO, is established. This is the main political objective of the action and the PLO broadcasts have proved this.

From several hasty commentaries it has emerged that this bloody action may boomerang and return to strike its initiators. Public opinion and that of various governments, according to those commentaries, will now finally discover the real image of the PLO and its murderous character. It is true that this evaluation is correct in the short term. The first shock almost always gives birth to reservations and horror at the murder of the innocent. All those who want to purify the reptile and put pressure on Israel to back talks with the PLO will speedily recover, however, and return to their claims that one must not push the Palestinians into the arms of frustration, that frustration gives birth to despair and despair worsens the struggle to the point of murderousness. Commentaries from Damascus, Baghdad and Moscow prove this.

Both President Carter and President as-Sadat have very grave reservations about the PLO demonstrations of terror and here it is important for us to remember that Israel and Egypt are, from this aspect, on the same front: both now serve as the main target for the terrorists, who want to torpedo the peace process. The conclusion now demanded is clear: precisely because we are faced with these murderous demonstrations, we must continue to aim at a settlement with Egypt and with Jordan, because it is only through a peace agreement and a common fight against terror that it will be possible to contain, to an appreciable degree, the terrorist organizations' activities.

The timing of the attack was chosen meticulously, since the Fatah command wanted to gain the strongest possible response from the action. It believes that after the first shock there will be a "sobering" and this will help the PLO to return to the focus of international attention. The raid on the Savoy Hotel, in its time, was also carried out with a clearly political objective. At that time there were talks with Egypt about signing the interim agreement in Sinai and the terrorists' main intention was the release of terrorists and a blow at the chances for the agreement.

This time the action also had military and secondary objectives. There is no doubt now--on the basis of evidence examined, the interrogation of prisoners and documents--that the immediate, secondary objective was a "blow for the sake of bargaining." This means a terrorist action intended to create conditions for bargaining over the release of hostages. It is enough to remember the risk the terrorists took when they packed into the first bus more than 20 additional passengers from the second bus which was halted on the main raod near Ma'agan Mikha'el. It is not clear that their aim was to get to Tel Aviv and stage a dramatic action in the center of town, bargaining with representatives of the Government of Israel while they held about 60 Israeli citizens as hostages. These negotiations were to have been held while underlining the political aspects of the struggle between Israel and the Palestinian organization. Declarations and speeches were ready in the terrorists' hands. At any rate, there is a reliable basis for the evaluation that the terrorists made advanced plans for their escape route and even the guarantees they would demand for a secure exit from Israel.

It is not clear whether everything was planned meticulously, including the mass killing on the Tel Aviv-Haifa road. There are two evaluations of this: One says that the killing was planned in order to shock the Israelis and, in this way, disrupt efforts to organize to overcome the attackers; the second says that the methodical shooting at on-coming vehicles was the result of the terrorists' panic when it became clear to them that the original plan had been disrupted and police patrol cars were trying to block their way dozens of kilometers before Tel Aviv--the main target of the action.

At any rate, senior security elements are convinced that had the terrorists not been stopped near the country club, the Israeli Cabinet would have been faced with a terrible dilemma: to respond to farreaching demands by the terrorists or to sacrifice dozens of citizens (more than half of whom were saved in the firefight near the country club). The security forces must quickly learn from the attack, since this is the first time that a trained squad of terrorists have succeeded in penetrating so deeply into Israel and there, for almost an hour, doing whatever they wanted. There is no doubt that the latest attack shows an ability to plan, to stick to a mission and a more impressive level of fighting than we have seen to date from the terrorist organizations.

From the equipment and the accessories seized and also from the evidence taken from the terrorists, a clear picture is drawn of an action prepared with great meticulousness over a long period of time. The people were chosen through severe winnowing and the way they were trained and indoctrinated in the details of the action were much more basic than they have been in the past. They acted as a trained squad and the firepower at their disposal was much more concentrated than has been the rule. All of this proves the importance which the Fatah command attached to this action.

It may be that it is impossible to block off the sea hermetically, but several painful questions must be raised and there must be some rapid conclusions. It is obvious that the security forces will have to deploy with more reinforcements in the future. The battle against a squad which was armed to the teeth--and tomorrow this may be a platoon--demands organization other than that used to date.

The terrorist organizations are trying to torpedo the peace process. We must do all we can to contain them. Only a peace agreement which will, even partially, solve the Palestinian question will be able to neutralize, to a significant extent, murders of the type which fell to us last Saturday night.

Attitudes Toward Palestinians

TA1311127 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 13 Mar 78 p 7 TA

[By Shelomo Shapir]

[Text] The events of bloody Saturday on the coastal road have once more illustrated that there is no chance that the Palestinian national movement, which has been fighting us since the beginning of the century, will ever accept our physical existence in the area. From this aspect Fatah, the largest of the organizations making up the PLO, is not just a murderers' organization, but the authorized representative of Palestinian nationalism, a continuation of the mufti and the gangs. After 100 years of political Zionism this is a hard situation, but there is no getting away from it. For the backers of the renewed peace movement, such as Sam Rubin and other patrons (the undersigned is here relying on information from the column by Nahum Barne'a in the DAVAR weekly supplement), it is worth going back and recalling the difference between the situation here and the campaign against the Vietnam war in the United States, the success of which caused the United States to abandon a weak ally but did not endanger the existence of the American people. It is this peace movement's bad luck that together with its renewed stand before the public, there has been another reminder of how tiny are the chances for coexistence in peace between Jewish and Palestinian nationalisms, despite the recurring symposiums run by NEW OUTLOOK.

It is true that the events of the day before yesterday occurred before Yasir 'Arafat had returned from his visit to Moscow, but it cannot be doubted that he received encouragement there to continue with the acts of murder. However, there is no point, under any circumstances, in throwing the whole of the responsibility on the Soviets and on the Arab rejectionist states alone. It is worth remembering that, in contrast to the leftist streams, the Fatah, which is the largest of the PLO organizations, is considered to be moderate-nationalist and it also enjoys appreciable support from Saudi Arabia and the other pro-Western oil-producing countries. With all Saudi Arabia's anticommunism, which it is demonstrating in the Horn of Africa, it has never severed its links with 'Arafat, despite his repeated visits to Moscow. With all the U.S. and Western claims that Saudi Arabia is not at all interested in an 'Arafatist state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Saudis have not stopped disseminating the stand that only if Israel makes far-reaching concessions will 'Arafat maybe condescend to join in with the pro-Western regime.

This Saudi involvement and the fact of Saudi Arabia's being the closest ally of the United States, by virtue of the oil and the millions of petrodollars, is our gravest Achilles' heel in our relations with the administration in Washington. In fact, this is not new. At the beginning of 1945, after the Yalta Conference, President Franklyn Delano Roosevelt claimed, after his meeting with the founder of the dynasty, King Ibn Saud, that he had in 5 minutes learned more from him about Jewish and Arab relations than he had learned on any previous occasion. [paragraph continues]

Roosevelt was not mistaken: At that same summit meeting, which was a continuation of the visits by Colonel Hopkins and other envoys, he learned of the abyss-like hatred of the ruler of the "purest" Arab country for the nationalist struggles of the Jewish nation and this only increased his doubts as to whether it was indeed worth giving support to the demands of the U.S. Jews, recruited by the Zionist movement, for the establishment of a Jewish state following World War II, which brought the holocaust down on us. Luckily for us, Roosevelt died a short time after that meeting with Ibn Saud and the new constellation during President Truman's time nevertheless permitted the realization of the Zionist objective, despite the warnings of the political and military establishments that the establishment of a Jewish state would endanger the supplies of oil and U.S. national, strategic and economic interests and despite the warnings of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to the effect that this would increase Soviet influence among the Arab countries.

To our regret, the cards held by Saudi Arabia today are very much stronger than those it held 33 years ago, particularly since today Egypt, the greatest of the Arab countries, is also dependent on its financial aid, and despite its involvement in the Palestinian matter we should not despair of a constant desire to sever itself from this issue. [as published] However, anyone who speaks of a possible incorporation of Israel into a pro-Western Arab lineup, together with Riyadh and Cairo--and, for whatever reason, such voices are being heard in our camp, too--does not know what he is talking about. It is essential that U.S. Jews and the rest of our friends recruited beyond the ocean should get into the consciousness of U.S. public opinion that guaranteeing a supply of oil at the expense of Jewish blood cannot be done and that linking supplies of weapons to Israel with a supply to Saudi Arabia, which, in addition to its support for the terrorists, has established new air bases near Elat, is defeating its own purpose. The opposition of the majority in the Committee on International Relations of the U.S. House of Representatives to the package deal proves that this struggle still has a chance.

There is no room for illusions. The difficulties facing Israel's policy after black Saturday are no different from those facing it before. Even after the letters of participation in the sorrow from President Carter and Secretary of State Vance, the differences of opinion over the prime minister's peace program and Israeli withdrawal remain. As for the European countries and the other UN members, the mass murder will not cause any change in their support for the "legitimate rights" of the Palestinians and the actualization of these rights by creating a political entity of their own. However, this does not absolve the Cabinet of Israel from immediately trying to strengthen national agreement right here, since national agreement has recently suffered both from the Likud ideology and from mistakes made in the field by the cabinet, which only increased the erosion against us among Western public opinion, our most vital asset. The reference is to a consensus with regard to possible concessions in an agreement with Egypt--and, for lack of alternative, the possibility cannot be dismissed of an interim agreement which would not answer all the legal aspects, but would leave an opening for progress and would lessen the danger of a renewal of a large war--and also with regard to drawing up clear delineations in contrast to the borders from before the 6-day war, to which we will never withdraw.

Whether there is still a possibility of a change in the current cabinet and the establishment of a national unity cabinet or whether no such possibility exists under the existing circumstances, we must aim at a renewal of the consensus. This is dependent on the cabinet more than on the Alinement and the Labor Party.

GOVERNMENT WELCOMES WITHDRAWAL OF SOMALI FORCES

LD121132Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 12 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Foreign Ministry spokesman Parviz Adl made the following announcement: The Imperial Government of Iran welcomes the decision by the Somali president concerning the withdrawal of Somali forces from Ogaden and their retreat to their recognized borders. The Imperial Iranian Government believes that this positive decision will prepare the ground for the peaceful settlement of the current conflict between Somalia and Ethiopia and will lay the groundwork for the departure of foreign forces involved in the Horn of Africa conflicts, as well as contributing to the holding of a conference and negotiations between the two sides under the supervision of OAU or the United Nations.

Teheran JOURNAL Comments

LD140912Y Teheran PARS in English 2334 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Teheran, PANA, (PARS NEWS AGENCY)--In an editorial on Monday March 13, the English language morning newspaper Teheran JOURNAL commented on the following article by saying that Somalia's decision earlier this week to withdraw its regular troops from the war-torn Ogaden in the hope of facilitating a peaceful settlement was an extremely courageous act. By choosing the path of negotiation rather than that of bloodshed, President Siad Barre has shown clearly that the Somalis are firmly committed to peace on the Horn of Africa.

Iran has joined other nations in welcoming the troop withdrawal. Describing the move as a positive step in the solving of the current problem between Somalia and Ethiopia, Foreign Ministry spokesman (?Parviz Adl) said Somalia's decision paves the way for the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Horn of Africa and opens up the possibility of a peaceful solution under the supervision of the Organisation for African Unity and the United Nations.

But the decision could not have been easy. Somali troops have now officially given up the ground won last July when they captured most of the Ogaden region. And Barre must be conscious of the fact that leaders of the Western Somali Liberation Front and the Somali-Abo Liberation Front will be determined to carry on a prolonged struggle against the Ethiopians. Now they will be fighting this battle without the aid of regular troops. As well, there is the plight of the people who live in the Ogaden region--mostly ethnic Somalis.

There are signs of an improved U.S. attitude, but it is fair to ask why this did not occur earlier. On Thursday President Carter called for the withdrawal of 12,000 Cuban forces and 1,000 Soviet military advisers from Ethiopia. Some would ask why this demand has only come after the defeat and withdrawal of Somalian forces. And in view of the attitude taken by the U.S. up until now, Barre will be justified in regarding with caution the suggestions from Washington that defensive weapons may now be supplied from there.

America may have to act more decisively and relatively quickly to prevent a return of Soviet influence in Somalia in particular and Africa in general. While Moscow has maintained an aloof silence on the question of a balancing withdrawal of Soviet and Cuban troops from Ethiopia, there are reports package in Libya earlier this month [as received] which apparently included an offer to eventual autonomy for the Ogaden's ethnic Somali people. Unless Washington is prepared to step in, the Soviet offer might seem more appealing in the face of the recent defeats.

Meanwhile, we are left wondering just how effective the withdrawal--positive as it is--will be in actually achieving peace. Saturday brought a firm Ethiopian rejection of American calls for a cease-fire and claims that Ethiopian troops had captured four more Ogaden towns as they raced toward the Somali border, having encouraged the Somalis to pull out, surely the Carter administration has a responsibility to impose even stronger diplomatic pressure on the Soviet Union, Ethiopia and Cuba to end the fighting. President Barre has taken a step toward peace and the negotiating table. It would be sad to see it wasted.

IRAN FAILS TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH GDR

LD141242Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 0500 GMT 14 Mar 78 LD

[Text] While announcing that Iran has not broken off its relations with the GDR, Mr Khalatbari said: The policy of that country is still not clear to Iran. The minister of foreign affairs said: Britain will protect Iranian interests in Kenya.

KHALATBARI GIVES PRESS CONFERENCE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

LD131856Y Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD

[Text] Mr Abbas Ali Khalatbari, the foreign minister, said at a press conference this afternoon: Iran's relations with all countries are very good and are expanding, and I am pleased to say that at present, we have no political differences with any country and I hope that with the implementation of the independent national policy, 1978-79 will also be a successful year for the benefit of the country and nation of Iran.

During this interview, the foreign minister outlined the activities and policy of the Foreign Ministry. Mr Khalatbari said the independent national policy and the shah's thoughts were recently published in the book "Toward the Great Civilization," and in order to fully and closely familiarize our colleagues with the shah's thoughts, that is to say the thoughts which will direct Iran in the coming years toward the great civilization, programs have been prepared in the form of speeches.

The foreign minister said concerning general policy and foreign relations: On the whole, our friendly relations and close cooperation, within the framework of the independent national policy, are very good with all countries and are in the process of expansion. I am pleased to announce that, at present, we have no political difference with any country; we have some difficulties with only one or two countries which are not of a fundamental nature, and we hope that with the passage of time, when the atmosphere has cleared, this coolness in relations, which may have come about as a result of misunderstandings will give way to friendly relations and international cooperation on a worldwide scale.

Our country's foreign minister went on to say: Our economic relations with other countries are still expanding. Technical, trade and tourist cooperation as well as cultural cooperation are going ahead according to the annual program which has been (?postponed). For the coming year too, these programs will be implemented on a bilateral basis after ratification by the two sides. We hope that with the implementation of the independent national policy, which will continue to be implemented, 1978-79 will be another successful year for the benefit of the country and nation of Iran.

Concerning Iran's relations with the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf, while alluding to recent comings and goings, Mr Khalatbari said: My visit to Iraq ought not be regarded solely in relation to my role as foreign minister or as a political matter. My visit to Iraq took place after the visit to Teheran last June by the Iraqi delegation led by 'Izzat Ibrahim, the interior minister and member of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council. We agreed that the Iranian-Iraqi joint committee should meet twice annually, once in Teheran and once in Baghdad and should, on the whole, consider general issues, that is to say, not only political relations but also transit, customs, river dredging, border waters and all the things which can be regarded as issues to which we should find solutions. The joint Iranian-Iraqi committee is, in fact, designed so that the two countries' relations will always be under the direct supervision of the government and of this joint committee so that if a problem arises efforts should be made to find a solution right from the outset, so that the problem does not grow with the passage of time.

But regarding the visit to the countries on the other side of the Persian Gulf, there is no new change and there is no new policy. These visits are taking place as a continuation of the same friendly and close relations and cooperation, the foundation of which has already been laid.

IRAN TO GIVE $500 MILLION LOAN TO SHARJAH

NC140813Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0758 GMT 14 Mar 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 14 March--Iran has decided to give a $500 million loan to the Sharjah Emirate, one of the seven UAE emirates, to help it overcome its financial difficulties. This was reported today by the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN, citing diplomatic circles in the Iranian capital.

It should be recalled that Sharjah ruler Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi visited Iran last October.

BRIEFS

PRISONERS' AMNESTIES--By the order of the shah, and on the occasion of the centenary of the birth of Reza Shah the Great, 241 prisoners are to be released from prisons. The shah's order has been communicated to the country's courts. [Text] [Teheran Domestic Service in Persian 1000 GMT 13 Mar 78 LD]

BANGLADESH

ZIA CONGRATULATES CHINESE LEADERS ON APPOINTMENTS

BK131259Y Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Text] President Zia has congratulated Mr Hua Kuo-feng on his appointment as the premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China by the fifth National People's Congress. In a message, the president expressed his confidence that under his dynamic and farsighted leadership the friendly people of China will continue to achieve new heights in all fields.

President Zia also said that the close ties of friendship and amity existing between Bangladesh and China will continue to grow from strength to strength to the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries. The president has also wished continued prosperity and (?progress) to the people of China.

President Zia has sent a similar congratulatory message to Mr Yeh Chien-ying on his appointment as chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China.

INDIA

JATTI HOSTS BANQUET FOR PRC DELEGATION LEADER

BK131255Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The vice president has said that both India and China should try to create an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation between them. Speaking at a luncheon hosted by him in honor of the leader of the Chinese good-will delegation, Mr Wang Ping-nan, Mr Jatti said in such an atmosphere relations between the two countries can be further developed to their mutual benefit. He said the social systems of the two countries are different, but both of them are trying to reach the common goal of development and material prosperity. In this effort there is much that they can learn from each other.

Wang Addresses Parliament

BK131640Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The leader of the Chinese good-will delegation, Mr Wang Ping-nan, said in New Delhi this evening that the quarrel between India and China is temporary, while their friendship is everlasting. Addressing a meeting of the members of Parliament he said: The people of the new countries are friends as well as brothers. Even brothers quarrel sometimes, but, after all, they are brothers.

The meeting was organized under the auspices of the All-India Dr Dwarkanath Kotnis Memorial Committee. A number of MP's from different parties attended. They applauded Mr Wang loudly as he concluded his speech with the assertion that the slogan of Hindi-Chini bhai bhai [Indians and Chinese are brothers] will resound with redoubled strength in the vast lands of India and China. He said temporary zigzags in our friendship cannot break historical relations.

Mr Jyotimor Bosu, senior vice president of the committee, spoke about the progress made by China and said it has shown how a self-reliant economy can be built. The Deputy Speaker Mr Gauri Murahari expressed confidence that the delegation's visit will open ways of resolving problems between the two countries and strengthen the bonds of friendship.

CHINESE PREMIER COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH INDIA

BK121158Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 12 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Chinese premier, Mr Hua Kuo-feng, has said that the Chinese people cherish a feeling of friendship for the people of India. Reporting this, Radio Peking says that the Chinese premier observed this in his review of the international situation and of Chinese foreign policy adopted by the first session of the fifth National People's Congress on Sunday last. He said the people of both the countries wish to see an increase in friendly contacts and improvement in relations between the two countries. Relations can further improve provided serious efforts are made by both the sides, he added.

The Chinese premier supported the proposals put forward by the countries of the Indian Ocean to make the area a zone of peace.

PRESS WELCOMES POSITIVE SIGNS IN SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS

BK131514Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1050 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[From review of the Indian press]

[Text] A formal invitation to visit China has been extended to the Indian external affairs minister through Mr Wang Ping-nan, leader of an unofficial good-will delegation, and has been accepted in principle.

The AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, a Calcutta daily, thinks this development might mark the beginning of a new phase in relations between the two countries. It says: Though New Delhi's reaction has been somewhat cautious, it can hardly be over optimistic to support that the Chinese (?now have) another step forward in the process of normalization of relations between the two countries.

The TRIBUNE of Chandigarh writes that the invitation was the second positive sign within a fortnight of Peking's willingness to [words indistinct] with India. It recalls that early this week, Chairman Hua, in his report to the Chinese parliament, underlined the need for serious efforts on both sides to improve the Sino-Indian relations. The paper also refers to the exchange of trade delegations and the current visit to India of the Chinese good-will mission. All these developments, it says, show the gradual but unmistakable revival of China's interest in Indian affairs.

The newspaper further clarifies that the Sino-Indian rapprochement fits in with the Janata government's aim to improve relations with all the neighboring countries. It adds: India's real problem with China is the outstanding border dispute. In the absence of any firm indication, it is difficult to say whether the Chinese have an open mind on this issue or not. In the TRIBUNE's opinion, the time may now be opportune to find out whether China is interested in an equitable solution, and this exercise should not be put off indefinitely.

The FREE PRESS JOURNAL of Bombay feels it may be rather premature at this stage to rush to the conclusion that India and China are poised for a breakthrough in the normalization of their bilateral relations. However, it says, recent positive developments indicate the possibility of a step by step progress in healing the breach between the two nations. The JOURNAL wants New Delhi to take due note of the changed sentiments that prevail in the post-Mao period.

EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION WITH USSR TO BE WIDENED

BK131036Y Delhi ISI in English 0855 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Text] A two-member delegation led by E.M. Kodatskiy, vice chairman of the State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education, Ukraine, held in New Delhi discussions with the officials of the Ministry of Labour. The two sides expressed satisfaction over the arrangements for mutual exchange of experience and information. They agreed that the mutually beneficial arrangements would be widened to include the training of instructors and the preparation of manuals and visual aids for vocational training.

The delegation is presently on a visit to this country under the Indo-Soviet cultural and scientific exchange programme.

The delegation during their stay, visited a number of industrial training institutes, training centres in industrial establishments and other advanced institutes engaged in the training of craftsmen, apprentices, vocational instructors and advanced skills [as received] at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Goa and Delhi.

The delegation also called on the Union Labour Minister Ravindra Varma. They were also shown round Agra and other interesting places as a part of the cultural exchange programme.

Earlier, an Indian delegation had visited the Soviet Union for a period of 2 weeks during 1975 under the exchange programme.

Technical Cooperation

BK131039Y Delhi ISI in English 0858 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Indo-Soviet joint work in the field of MHD (Magneto Hydrodynamics) conversion of energy is likely to yield benefits by 1981 when a 5 mw MHD unit will be commissioned at the Trichy unit of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, reports SAMACHAR.

Professor Shumiatskiy, eminent Soviet MHD specialist along with three other specialists is on a visit to India to review the progress in the MHD installation work.

SRV, AFGHANISTAN, INDONESIA TO RECEIVE WHEAT, RICE

BK131114Y Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Text] India is to supply 300,000 tons of wheat and 70,000 tons of (?fine) flour to Vietnam and 50,000 tons of wheat to Afghanistan on a commodity loan basis. The government has also sold 50,000 tons of rice to Indonesia as a gesture of good will.

Disclosing this in the lower house of Parliament today, the agriculture minister, Mr Barnala, said the present policy of the Government of India is against the export of wheat and rice. However, these supplies are being made because certain friendly countries approached India for the supply of foodgrains to tide them over the difficulties caused by the short supply in their countries.

SYRIAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT INDIA 22-30 MARCH

BK111614Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1600 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] New Delhi, Mar. 11 (AFP)--Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will visit India from March 22 to 30, it was announced here today.

During his stay here, President al-Asad will hold talks with President Sanjeeva Reddy, Prime Minister Morarji Desai and other Indian leaders on bilateral and international topics. He will also visit places of cultural and historical interest.

SHAH COMMISSION SUBMITS FIRST REPORT TO GOVERNMENT

BK131617Y Delhi ISI in English 1520 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The Shah Commission submitted its first interim report on March 13 to the Home Ministry. This information was given by the government to both the houses of Parliament, reports SAMACHAR.

Home Minister Charan Singh, who gave the information in the Lok Sabha, told S.N. Mishra, Janata, that it would take at least 3 weeks to present the interim report to Parliament as it had to be processed, summarised, and discussed by the cabinet.

In a statement, Charan Singh said the Home Ministry would examine the report as early as possible and take follow-up action in consultation with the Law Ministry. An identical statement was made in the Rajya Sabha by Minister of State for Home Affairs Dhanik Lal Mandal.

PAKISTAN

HAQ COMMENTS ON DPRK VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

BK131117Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Text] The chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said that the visit of the vice president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mr Pak Song-chol, has proved very useful in contributing to the development of friendly relations between Pakistan and the DPRK. He was speaking at a return banquet given in his honor by Vice President Pak Song-chol in Rawalpindi last night.

Earlier, speaking at the banquet, the vice president of the DPRK said that during their stay in Pakistan they spent a joyous and fruitful time and enjoyed cordial hospitality. He wished the people of Pakistan greater successes in their future struggle.

Earlier Mr Pak Song-chol visited the Tarbela Dam. He also attended a luncheon in Rawalpindi given in his honor by President Fazal Elahi Chaudhry. The DPRK vice president is leaving Pakistan this morning on conclusion of his 4-day visit.

PAKISTAN DENIES SENDING MILITARY AID TO SOMALIA

BK131720Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Text] A press release of the Interservices Public Relations Directorate has contradicted a report appearing in a section of the press quoting BBC that Pakistani pilots and technician have arrived in Somalia to help rehabilitate the Somali Air Force. The press release said that the report is baseless and devoid of any truth.

BHUTTO TRIAL ON CORRUPTION CHARGES POSTPONED

BK110838Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 11 Mar 78 BK

[Text] A special court consisting of Mr Justice Shafiur Rahman of the Lahore High Court today began hearing three cases against Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto on charges of misappropriation of money from the Secret Service fund and misuse of public funds for his personal farm and residences.

Copies of first information reports and witnesses' statements, along with other related documents were given to the accused who was present in the court with his lawyers.

The counsel for Mr Bhutto, Mr Yahya Bakhtiar, told the court that as the trial in the murder case against Mr Bhutto has been completed and a verdict is awaited, his client is not in a position to issue instructions or to justify his stand. He therefore argued that the hearing by postponed.

The special court accepted the argument to postpone the hearing. The court directed Mr Yahya Bakhtiar to inform the court by the second week of next month as to when the trial could begin.

The special attorney for the (?state), Dr Khalid Ranja, informed the court that notices related to three other cases against the accused will be issued within 15 days.

NUSRAT BHUTTO PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST 12 MAR

BK121716Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1711 GMT 12 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad, March 12 (AFP)--Begum Nusrat, wife of ex-Premier Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and acting chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), was put under house arrest in Lahore today, reliable sources said. The sources said the police had also arrested the editor of the PPP daily 'MUSWAT,' Mr Badruddin and the Punjab provincial government had cancelled the publishing licence of the pro-PPP daily 'HAYAT.'

Hundreds of supporters of the former prime minister have been arrested during the past few days to forestall any trouble following the imminent announcement of judgement by the Lahore High Court in a murder conspiracy case against Mr. Bhutto.

The court had completed the proceedings of the case on March 2 last, but reserved its judgement.

Mr Bhutto, in jail since September 17 last, was tried on the charge of conspiring to kill a political opponent in November 1974.

ELECTION AUTHORITIES TO MEET POLITICAL LEADERS

BK131722Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 13 Mar 78 BK

[Text] Under instructions of the chief of the army staff and chief martial law administrator, the election cell has requested various political leaders for a meeting on the 16, 18, and 21st of this month to discuss the political situation.

Announcing this in Rawalpindi, the election cell says the meetings will take place with each political party separately.

BRIEFS

SRI LANKA TEAM ARRIVES--A three member trade delegation from Sri Lanka arrived in Karachi on 8 March on a week's visit to Pakistan. It will hold talks to explore possibilities of further expansion of trade between the two countries as well as on importing dry fish from Pakistan. [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK]

AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT--An agreement for the introduction of air service between Pakistan and Mauritius was signed in Rawalpindi 8 March. The leader of the visiting Mauritian delegation signed the agreement on behalf of his country. [Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 9 Mar 78 BK]

CANADIAN LOAN--Canada is to give Pakistan three interest-free loans totaling $80 million under three separate arrangements signed in Islamabad on 9 March. The agreements provide $40 million for the purchase of four turbines and generators for the Tarbela Dam, $10 million for repairs to the dam and $30 million for the purchase of equipment for the transport, communications, agriculture and energy sectors. [Text] [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK]

JAPANESE CREDIT--Japan is to provide a new yen credit of over $31 million to Pakistan to acquire goods and services to meet its development requirements. Notes to this effect were exchanged in Islamabad on 9 March between the Japanese ambassador and the federal secretary of finance and economic affairs on behalf of their respective governments. [Karachi Overseas Service in English 0930 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK]

YAR MINISTER VISITS--Mohammad Salim Basindwa, minister for planning of the Yemen Arab Republic, met Chief Martial Law Administrator Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi on 9 March. Earlier, talking to PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL in Lahore, he said that there are great possibilities for economic cooperation between Pakistan and the Yemen Arab Republic. He said that a high-level delegation from his country will soon visit Pakistan for talks on various subjects. [Karachi Overseas Service in Bengali 0115 GMT 10 Mar 78 BK]

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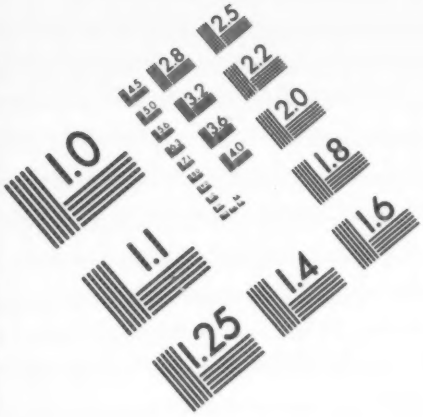

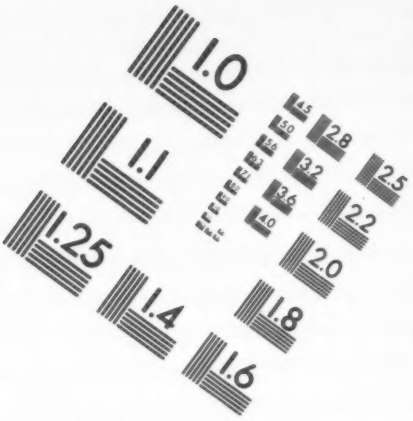

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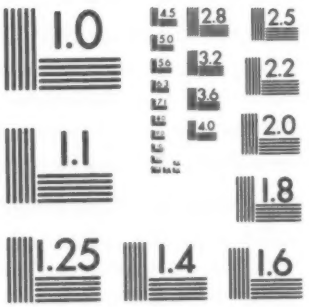

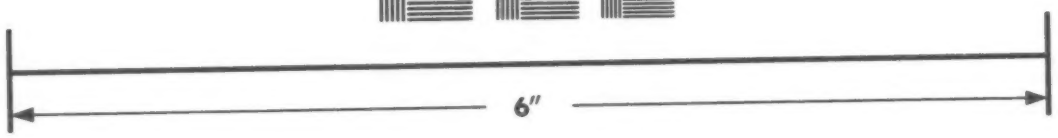

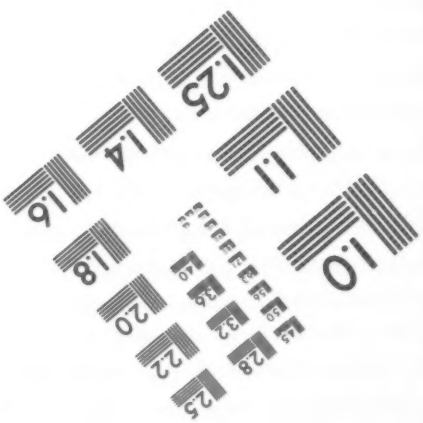

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